



ITI-LRG Newsletter



Issue 17

www.iti-lrg.org.uk

May 2008

Editorial

Spring has finally arrived and, as you can see from our programme below, it is time to take things easy and have some fun! The next three LRG events will be all about socialising and networking in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

In fact, we don't have another CPD event on our programme until November. This will be a review of productivity-enhancing software and a look at file formats, timed to coincide with ASLIB's "Translating & the Computer" Conference on 27 & 28 November.

What else is in this Newsletter? We have reviews of our three events earlier this year, hints and tips, news, diary dates, an introduction to Google Docs by our Membership Secretary, Daniela Ford, and, as always, our at-a-glance events calendar on the back page.

I hope you enjoy the read.

Betti Moser

Forthcoming LRG Events

Thursday, 3 July
from 7pm:

Annual LRG Pub Crawl

This year's LRG Pub Crawl will take us to pubs in the Fleet Street area. We have enlisted the help of a specialist pub guide, who will show us around some of the most famous and interesting haunts of the area. A meal stop will be included at one of the pubs en route.

Do join us for this annual highlight of the LRG events calendar!

For further details contact Julia ten Elsen at j_tenelsen@yahoo.com, or check the LRG website: www.iti-lrg.org.uk.

Saturday, 19 July
from 5pm:

Summer Garden Party hosted by Yilmaz & Hannan Düzen

Yilmaz, our Interpreters' Representative, and his wife, Hannan, have kindly offered to host a garden party at their home in South Woodford.

A full Turkish barbecue and soft drinks will be provided. For alcoholic drinks, please bring your own. Numbers are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Cost per person is £20. Advance booking is essential! Bookings will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Yilmaz at mail@yilmazduzen.com.

September
(date to be announced)

LRG Dines Out

One of our popular LRG Dining-out evenings is planned for September. This event is now organised by Lorna Sandler. Further details will be sent to all LRG members by email nearer the time.

To enquire about the event, or to offer ideas and suggestions for future dining-out venues, please contact Lorna at adept.Lrs@btinternet.com.

Wednesday, 26 November
early evening (exact time tba)

IT Review: productivity tools and file formats

Central London venue (tba)

Ana Luiza Iaria and Peter Linton will give an overview of the latest productivity-enhancing software packages and address some issues translators may encounter with incoming file formats.

The event is free to LRG members, (£10 to non-members). Please note, however, that booking is essential!

To book, please contact our Events Secretary, Fiona Franks, at ffranks01@googlemail.com.

Please book by 14 November.



Review of LRG Events

Chartered Linguist event – 29th January 2008

On Tuesday, 29 January, the LRG held an information event, entitled “Chartered Linguist – what’s it all about?”, at the Blue Posts pub in Soho. The upstairs room was packed to capacity, with all available seats taken and people having to stand or perch on piano stools as Alan Wheatley, ITI General Secretary, and Amanda Conrad, ITI representative on the joint ITI/IoL committee setting the criteria for admission to the new Chartered Linguist category, provided information on the Chartered Linguist status.

Alan began with a comprehensive introduction to the criteria required. Full details of these, and information on how to apply, are available on the Members’ Area of the ITI website, and also on the IoL website. Alan explained that, once an applicant had been granted Chartered Linguist status, this would remain valid for one year. Registration is reviewed annually, and skills and experience need to be current. Strong emphasis is placed on CPD, both at the application stage and subsequently, as Chartered Linguists need to provide details of their ongoing and planned CPD. A more in-depth review, including a further interview, will take place every 3–5 years. Alan then ran through a brief list of frequently asked questions, answers to which are also available on the ITI website.

Amanda addressed the question of why members might want to become a Chartered Linguist (the “what’s in it for me?” part of the evening). She mentioned that work providers were more likely to choose Chartered Linguists, as the CL status would serve as evidence of high professional and ethical standards. She recommended that translators and interpreters should apply for Chartered Linguist



Alan Wheatley, Amanda Conrad, Pamela Mayorcas and Yilmaz Düzen posing for a photo shoot.



Participants mingling after the event.

status as a mark of quality, enabling them to stand out from the crowd. It could also represent a valuable negotiating tool and a justification to command higher rates. As a marketing tool, the CL after a person’s name would be a distinct advantage.

A lively question and answer session followed, with Amanda and Alan seeking to answer as many questions as possible. One participant asked how career breaks or periods spent working as a staff translator might affect an application, especially if the volume of work did not meet the stated requirements. The same point was also raised in the case of rare language combinations, voice-over and other specialist work. Alan was keen to emphasize that the criteria were intended to be flexible and adjustable, depending on the personal circumstances of the applicant and the market they operated in. He encouraged all MITIs to submit an application and stressed that there would be an opportunity to explain their circumstances at the interview.

There were also some questions about the CPD requirements and Alan pointed out that CPD was an essential part of chartered status in every profession, not just for interpreting and translating.

On the whole I found the evening highly informative and I believe the majority of people who attended the meeting did too. Get those applications in quick!

Crystelle Mills-Smith

‘Meet the Client’ evening – 19 March 2008

Fledgling translators and University of Westminster post-graduate students were intermingled with seasoned professionals at varying stages of their careers. The evening was coordinated by LRG Co-

Chairs Betti Moser and Pamela Mayorcas. Pamela introduced the four speakers, Howard Cardinal from Dora Wirth Languages, Sophie Moore from Comtec Translations, Elly Dutton from Atlas Translations and Nigel Goffe from the Language Technology Centre (LTC).

The speakers outlined what they look for in freelance translators, and highlighted some of the dos and don'ts of approaching translation companies for freelance work – including ways of making applications stand out. They concurred on preferring to receive prospective freelancers' details via email as opposed to hardcopy and recommended an initial follow-up phone call, as well as occasional emails to stay in touch afterwards.

Dora Wirth specialises in medical and pharmaceutical translations. Howard recommended that new translators could get started by offering translation checking – in particular, as many translators avoid this kind of work, and demand therefore outstrips supply. At Dora Wirth, all translations are checked, and Howard stressed that they would welcome applications from candidates with the necessary background.

Sophie from Comtec Translations emphasized the benefits of two-way communication – including picking up the phone – and staying in touch with your clients, accepting feedback gracefully and letting regular clients know about availability, e.g. when going on or returning from holidays.

Atlas Translations use an online application form, so applicants' details go straight into the database, capturing all the information required, and in the right format, to allow speedy processing by busy project managers.

With its ten or so in-house translators, LTC, a consultancy offering language services and software products, uses freelancers at peak times, for revision, or if the subject matter is very specialised.

The evening concluded with a lively question and answer session. One question related to the Catch-22 situation of translators with relatively little or no experience trying to obtain work. Elly Dutton, from Atlas Translations, restated that Atlas expect a minimum of 5 years' experience. Young faces in the audience visibly fell and my – slightly older – heart sank.

A question on average rates of pay exacted uneasiness on the podium, as public discussion of rates is generally considered taboo in the industry. Eventually Nigel responded valiantly: all things considered, experience, language combinations, specialisms etc., he ventured to say that around £50–60 per 1000 words would be considered as the bottom end of the scale for French or German to English.

Following the official close of the event, the speakers generously remained to answer individual questions and engage in networking.

Lisa Melvin

ITI-LRG Interpreters' Conference – 29 March 2008

This was a lively and inspirational day, with excellent speakers, representing all areas of interpreting, voice-over, subtitling and transcription – and who so obviously love what they do!

The two-tier Old Cinema lecture theatre was packed with 250 students, teachers, seasoned language professionals and service users, as organiser Yilmaz Düzen introduced the platform speakers and Geoffrey Buckingham, the event's charming and instructive chairman.



Chairman Geoffrey Buckingham with Yilmaz Düzen and some of the day's speakers on the podium.

Susie Kershaw – interpreters walk beside their clients

Working mainly in the commercial field, Susie advocated investing time on CV maintenance, personal organisation and training, in order to best respond to customer needs. As well as learning the different booth systems, interpreters should routinely research, in preparation for assignments and as ongoing CPD, and should devise a travel strategy.

Keeping fit and flexible is important and this includes exercise, care of voice and diaphragmatic breathing. And don't forget the financial side with professional and timely invoices!

Nathalie Pham – is there an interpreter's gene?

As an interpreter at the UN & European Commission, Nathalie was convinced that interpreters are born, not made. They are inherently analytical (so often anticipate what a speaker will say next), but preparation is vital and public speaking skills should be honed. Travel is the most

stressful part of the job – always plan to be at the booth 15 minutes before the scheduled start.

Describing the invention of simultaneous interpreting during the Nuremberg Trials by Andronikof, Jacob and Kaminker (the founders of AIIC – the International Association of Conference Interpreters), Nathalie confirmed the AIIC language classification:

A = native or equivalent language (the main active language)

B = language other than A into which the interpreter works (near native language)

C = passive language(s) from which the interpreter works.

Relay interpreting is used when a language is not covered by the core 2–4 interpreters in a team (e.g. Greek is interpreted into English, then from English into other languages).

Despite complete mastery of their A language, interpreters can find accents challenging, especially when speakers insist on not using their native language. More information on any of this is available on the AIIC website www.aiic.net.

Alex Krouglov – diplomacy is a linguistic puzzle

Referring to the publication by Dr Stanko Nick, *Use of language in diplomacy*, Alex provided a fascinating insight into working at the Foreign Office. Mastering new topics such as money laundering, terrorism and the environment, together with relaying speech without notes, while observing total impartiality and confidentiality, are all part of the job. He also recommended to keep up with dignitaries' hobbies, such as horse racing.

Armed with an MA and a clear 2-page CV, potential junior interpreters require excellent short-term memory (e.g. number recall) as note-taking is often prohibited or impossible. After training (focussing on role play) they often start by accompanying officials during dinners etc.

Dr Kevin Lin – what is our added value?

Kevin's account of his life as a diplomatic interpreter was amusing and thought-provoking and has been the subject of two books to date. As lead Chinese/English interpreter for the British government, his consecutive interpreting has assisted countless political dignitaries. The schedule can be punishing – on one visit to China he showered four times a day to stay awake!

The interpreter doesn't just hear the speaker's words, but hears them loaded with all the relevant national culture – essential to obtain the full meaning. One of the greatest challenges was conveying English humour when this is not readily translatable, or expected, by Chinese audiences. Doing so successfully adds value.

Magdy Abbas – glossaries, glossaries, glossaries!

Magdy was the lead Arabic interpreter in the Lockerbie and PC Yvonne Fletcher cases. His PSI work with the police is governed by the National Agreement on Arrangements for the Attendance of Interpreters in Investigations and Proceedings within the Criminal Justice System (2002).

Keeping up to date with codes of practice and maintaining meticulous glossaries are as important as knowing the intricacies of the Libyan calendar.

The PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) police caution is complicated, so people who have basic English often struggle when they hear this rapid-fire legalese – resulting in the "sudden" need for an interpreter.

Public Service Interpreters should ideally have translation qualifications as well and will need to sight-translate statements etc – a feature of the DPSI exam.

Professor Guillermo Makin – deciphering two cultures

Guillermo focused on court and tribunal work. As well as conveying cultural differences, interpreters need to understand and explain the legal frameworks in which they work, e.g. the Napoleonic Code in Spain and Latin America compared with English law.

In court, the defendant presents himself to the world via the interpreter, so is reliant on the interpreter to represent him effectively, to identify and clarify potential misunderstandings and offer cultural insight.

While waiting for a session to start, interpreters may feel threatened, so courts should allocate them a safe waiting room.

Karin Band – interpreters do it faster

A medical and pharmaceutical interpreter and translator, Karin distinguished between "the Agreement Sector" (international organisations with which AIIC has concluded an agreement) and "the non-Agreement Sector".



Dr Kevin Lin, diplomatic interpreter for the British Government

Referring to the historic rivalry between interpreting and translation, she affirmed that interpreters and translators are equally skilled at manipulating language – it's just that interpreters do it faster!

Agreeing that PSI can expose interpreters to harrowing situations and images in hospitals and coroners' courts, she referred to the Metropolitan Police's counselling service, which provides useful support to officers, and hoped this would be extended to interpreters via their professional bodies.



Delegates networking during a break.

Daniel Pagoon – how to be a professional voice

This speaker gave a fascinating insight into the world of voice-overs, subtitling and dubbing. An actor and voice-over artist with many years of experience, Daniel gave a lively presentation with plenty of practical advice, culminating in the demonstration of an exercise to achieve clarity of speech – by talking with a pencil between your teeth!

Dr Ellen Moerman – passionate about language

Ellen provided an eloquent and highly entertaining conclusion to the day, sharing her wealth of experience as well as some amusing anecdotes from 35 years as a "jobbing" interpreter.

Once, for example, she had to interpret for a court trial on a remote island with only one shop – where the interpreter would happily bump into the defendant, the judge and the prosecution as they were buying their groceries.

She also gave some useful tips on how to organise yourself as a travelling interpreter, who might be called upon at short notice any time of the day or night, often without knowing how long an assignment was likely to take. Her advice was, always have your bag with essentials packed and ready, make sure your mobile phone is charged, and take a snack or sandwich with you.

Lynn Everson / Betti Moser

Noticeboard

Useful websites:

www.thelanguageof.com – a virtual second-hand bookshop specialising in foreign-language paperbacks. You can buy – and sell – popular and classic literature in a wide range of languages.

www.businesslink.gov.uk/london – offers free seminars on marketing and other aspects of business. The website also has all sorts of useful tips and information. A lot of it is on growing or selling your business or employing staff. But some of it is also useful for freelancers and one-person businesses.

Diary dates

ITI SURREY REGIONAL GROUP:

Visit to Bletchley Park

Friday, 23 May

For details please contact Shirley Barrett at shirley.barrett2@ntlworld.com as soon as possible.

TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION:

The Art of Translating – Your Work or Mine?

First event: Thursday, 15 May, 6.30-8.30pm, at the Society of Authors

The Translators Association is running a series of workshops at which some of the best translators into English will examine the processes, difficulties, and delights of the art of literary translation.

For further details see: www.societyofauthors.org/subsidiary_groups/translators_association.

For a giggle...

(Courtesy of 'Netzblatt', the German Network Newsletter)

A linguistics professor is lecturing his class. "In English," he says, "a double negative forms a positive. However, in some languages, such as Russian, a double negative remains a negative. But there isn't a single language, not one, in which a double positive can express a negative." – A voice from the back of the room retorts, "Yeah, right!"

Google Docs – for collaborative projects

Google Docs is a free service provided by Google, which allows you to create Word and Excel documents online, or import Word and Excel files from your computer into Google Docs, in order to share them with others.

Google Docs is useful if you need to work on the same file with other people. I regularly have to do just that, both as part of my LRG Committee work and also as part of my freelance work. Normally you would have to send your file to all your collaborators, who would then work on their own version of the file and at the end someone has to merge all the information to create one final document. This is time-consuming and also often leads to errors and omissions.

This is where Google Docs comes in. You can, for example, create an Excel file online in Google Docs and then give other people access to your file by “inviting” them. Only the people you have invited have access to your file. You can now all work on the same file – even simultaneously! It can seem like magic when you see changes, which are being made by someone else, suddenly appearing in the file you are working on. You can also chat with whoever is currently logged on to your file.

I have so far used it on big software projects, where many people and many languages were involved and we had to keep a tracking sheet of our progress. We are also using it for the LRG membership subscription list. This is very convenient, as now both Oliver Walter, our Treasurer, and I can work on the same spreadsheet, knowing that we both have the fully up-to-date membership list.

I have also used it with students at the University of Westminster, asking them to work in teams to carry out specific tasks and keep a record of their findings in a Google Doc. I was then able to access this file and show to the whole class on a data projector (much quicker than asking students to write their findings on the whiteboard!).

Google Docs is also helpful if you are working on a big translation project with several other translators and need to keep a glossary between all of you for consistency. Rather than having to continually send updated versions round to everyone, you can always have the latest and current version accessible to all.

Google Docs can be accessed from anywhere, provided you have an internet connection and know your username and password.

To use Google Docs, simply go to <http://documents.google.com> and log in with your username (your email address) and password (your usual Google password). If you don't have a Google account, you can create one very quickly and at no cost.

Once you are logged in you can create a Word or Excel document, share it with other people or access documents that other people have invited you to use.

Daniela Ford

New LRG members

We welcome the following new members who have joined the LRG since January:

Ignacio Alvarez, Rewa Bhattarai, Gabriela Bocanete, Elena Bylinkina, Tanya Carstairs, Rose Marie Cartledge, Napak Chan-Udom, Ariel de Ramos, Rhona Desmond, Son Kim Do, Mary Duncan, Elena Edwards, Richard Elliott, Irene Fuchs, Hiromi Green, Susan Green, Syed Habibullah, Kevin Halliwell, Hayley Harris, Sophie Howe, Unurmaa

Janchiv, Ranjeeta Johnson, Katarzyna Kaldowski, Laura Keshav, Annika Kielgas, Alice Francia Kilgarrieff, Chantrakan Leigh, Gabriella Liberotti, Jen Mann, Nathalie Marechal, Maria Grazia Marino, Fiona Miles, Crystelle Mills-Smith, Simona Negroni, Guadalupe Rodríguez, Maia Rushbury, Isabel Sanchez, Helen Soo, Madeline Stewart, Marianne van Reenen, David Warwick.

LRG News

LRG Christmas Party – please help us find a venue!

The LRG Committee is looking for your ideas and suggestion for a central London venue for our AGM and Christmas Party.

We are looking for a pub function room, which fulfils *all* of the following criteria:

- central London location
- within easy reach of a London Underground station (and easy to find!)
- good food at reasonable prices
- room large enough for at least 40 people
- friendly and helpful staff
- pleasant ambience.

Most of the venues we've been using in the past have been able to fulfil some, or even most of these criteria. However, they usually let us down on at least one or two of them, even if it's just the size of the room or distance from the nearest underground station.

So, if you think you know just the place, we would love to hear from you!

Please send your recommendations to Betti Moser at betti@apriltext.co.uk.

Last call for LRG membership renewals!

Please make sure you have renewed your LRG membership for 2008.

*Please note that, unless we receive your subscription renewal **by 9 May**, you will no longer receive the Newsletter and your name will not be included in the new LRG Members Directory, due to be sent out in June.*

ITI News

Call for Papers:

ITI Conference 2009 – “Sustainability in Translation”

16 & 17 May 2009

at the Institute of Mechanical Engineers,
1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1

Sustainable development and even bare survival are crucial 21st century issues affecting many areas. As international topics, they automatically involve and concern translators and interpreters. But with our professional work techniques evolving at a rapid pace, some see the sustainability of translation and interpreting as endangered too. The ITI Conference 2009 is themed broadly around sustainability in all its forms.

Some themes to consider are:

- environmental sustainability movements in the international context
- translating and interpreting on environmental issues and future-oriented technologies
- international laws and regulations on sustainability issues and the role of the T/I professional

- sustaining the inflow of new translators and interpreters to the professions
- sustaining the T/I professional's body, mind and soul.

If you would like to submit a paper on any of the above or on more general themes, with or without a sustainability angle, please contact ITI at the address given below. Favourable consideration will be given to responses received before 20 June 2008.

The Conference Committee are looking in particular for contributions from translation companies or language service providers with a specialist interest in sustainability issues.

Contributions are welcome from ITI members and non-members.

Please also contact ITI if you want to put forward a suitable topic for a poster session or conference workshop.

To submit a paper, please send a brief abstract (500 words) and a professional biography (150 words), to Helen Robertson, Institute of Translation & Interpreting, South Fifth Street, Milton Keynes, MK9 2EU, UK; Tel: +44 (0)1908 325255; Fax: +44 (0) 1908 325259; Email: info@iti.org.uk.

LRG Events for Summer & Autumn 2008

Thursday, 3 July from 7pm	<p>LRG Pub Crawl This year's LRG Pub Crawl will take place in the Fleet Street area. A specialist guide will show us around some of the most famous and interesting haunts of this area. <i>Contact: Julia ten Elsen at j_tenelsen@yahoo.com</i></p>
Saturday, 19 July from 5pm	<p>Summer Garden Party At Yilmaz and Hannan's home in South Woodford. Turkish food and soft drinks provided. Cost per person: £20. <i>For further details and to book, contact Yilmaz Düzen: mail@yilmazduzen.com</i></p>
September date tba	<p>LRG Dines Out Further details and a booking form will be sent to all LRG members nearer the time. <i>Contact: Lorna Sandler at adept.Lrs@btinternet.com</i></p>
Wednesday, 26 November time tba	<p>IT Review – productivity tools and file formats Ana Luiza Iaria and Peter Linton will discuss productivity-enhancing software packages and look at some file format issues that may be giving translators a headache. <i>To book a place, please contact Fiona Franks at ffranks01@googlemail.com</i></p>
Thursday, 4 December	<p>LRG AGM and Christmas Party Venue tba. Please note our request for help with finding a venue (page 7). <i>Contact: Betti Moser at betti@apriltext.co.uk</i></p>

See www.iti-lrg.org.uk for the latest updates on forthcoming events.

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