



Precision in Translation

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Precision seems like a strange word to use in regard to translation. Perhaps accuracy might be better. However the word precision has been deliberately chosen to confer a small degree of order into the process of translation.

Nobody walks into a restaurant without having a good idea of what food it serves, what it tastes like, the size of the platter they might expect, how much they are willing to pay, and the time taken to prepare and serve the meal. Precision in this sense is a specific parameterization of the activity, not the accuracy of the activity itself.

Translation is a human intensive activity, it requires the allocation of human resources, often with very different skill levels, and different work loads. Failure to specify accurately a project's extent leads to an over-commitment or under-commitment of human resources, with an inevitable fallout that the resources are never available when needed, and there is a last minute scramble to find or reassign translators.

Precision then is having realistic expectations of a project's goals, an accurate assessment of its size, the specialized human resources required, a realistic estimate of the time frame required and what it will cost.

One legendary project started out as 3 boxes of documents for translation, for which a large team of translators was placed on standby. After coming through customs, the material was whittled down to 300 pages. Finally, after another review, it dropped to a dozen pages. Lack of precision. It damages the client-translator relationship every time. It is the modern day equivalent of crying wolf.

Every translator has had the experience in some form or another, where the client marches in mid-week carrying a hefty package of 300 pages, and says, "can I have this by the end of the week?" And the translator instead of laughing, and telling the client they are out of their gourd, starts to figure out how it might be done.

How many times have translators and agencies alike scurried around for a week, lining up translators, modifying pricing strategies, in an effort to land a big contract? Then, when the client finally realizes what the project is going to cost, the client cancels.

The transmission of loose-leaf documents around the world is fraught with problems. Often pages are missing, the document is out of order, completely reversed or every second page is missing. Simple things, but obviously no one has checked them.

There have also been numerous incidences where the client and agency alike have assigned a "look-alike" language to a translator who does not handle that particular language. Let's face it, if you cannot recognize the language, then how can you best assign the translation to a translator adept at translating that kind of material?

More often than not, a standard contract document nowadays contains legal, financial and technical all mixed in together. Different translators are going to do significantly better on different sections of the contract. Because, although translators do not like to talk about it, there is a kind of disciplinary apartheid in translation. Each translator likes to stay within the homeland where they feel most comfortable and not reveal the scantily clad skeletons in their closet of material they cannot or do not like to translate. Again, this is a lack of precision in the client-translator relationship.

More significantly, translation speeds vary widely from translator to translator sometimes by as much as factor of 5 or more. A rough average for the industry is 3,000 words per translator per day. This is roughly 12 letter-size pages per day, which drops to approximately half if a translator only works part-time. Put another way, it is 1 1/2 pages per translator-hour. Hence 300 pages are going to take 200 translator-hours.

Many agencies will not shrink from splitting a 300-page document between a dozen translators, so as to pump the translation through the sausage mill. But if the original document is structured, as all documents should be, with a beginning, a middle and an end; the resulting translation is nothing but mincemeat, a mish-mash of terminology and confusing cross-references. The same concept or person cited in the translation may masquerade under half-a-dozen different guises. This is easily recognized as a problem of parameterization of terminology. *Continua na pág. 3*

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PL Data

Volume IX
Issue 1
March, 2000

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PL Data is a quarterly publication with editions in: March, June, September and December.

Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are solely those of their authors. Articles submitted become the property of PLData and are subject to editing.

Submissions for publications are invited and may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the editor.

Members of the Portuguese Language Division receive this newsletter for free. Non-members: US\$10.00/year.

Portuguese Language Division is a non-profit organization and a division of the

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Rates for Ads:

Full page (7,5 pol. x 9,75 pol.) = US\$100

Half page (7,5 pol. x 4,87 pol.) = US\$75

¼ page (4,75 pol. x 4,87 pol.) = US\$50

Business card (9 pol. x 6 pol.) = US\$12

Atrasou mas chegou!

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Março passou correndo, um cometa. Esperamos a reunião da Primavera acontecer (24 a 26) para publicar o material referente a ela e o tempo passou, passou. Tivemos algumas dificuldades com as fotos, mas com a colaboração do Gabe Bokor, Minouche Martins e Margarete Marchetti, pudemos superar as barreiras da digitalização...

Vida de tradutor é dura mesmo. Num dia, você mal abre boca, digita o dia todo e produz o texto traduzido que tanto sonhou ou lutou. Noutro, você viaja para San Antonio, vê os amigos e colegas, aprende, ouve estórias, debate, ri e até vai dançar... E num terceiro, volta para casa, desarruma a mala e vai se encontrar com o amigo-inimigo de todas as horas, o PC (ou micro, como falam no Brasil). Difícil contraste do interno x externo, principalmente para quem trabalha em casa, como eu. Uma *telecommuter*... quem diria, nunca pensei ser chamada assim. (Prefiro *telecommutant*, porque acho que desempenho muitos papéis ao mesmo tempo, mas isso é outra estória...) Muitos de nós viajam em trabalhos de interpretação justamente para quebrar esta monotonia. Outros, também como eu, têm filhos, e cada dia é uma série de aventuras entre trabalhar, buscar criança em escola, dar banho e ensaboar pés imundos. Não é fácil. No final das contas, viajar sempre é um descanso, por pior que seja...

Gostoso mesmo é fazer o PLData. Fácil é escrever emails pedindo colaborações ao pessoal, trocar idéias, ouvir opiniões, editar os artigos, escolher as fotos para publicação, enfim. Divertido e empolgante. Depois rever os artigos, editá-los, escolher outros na Web ou em outras fontes. Isso sim, é prazer.

Meus agradecimentos sinceros às editoras assistentes Heather e Joana pelo bom trabalho! Também obrigada a Regina Cardoso da Silva, nossa Administradora Assistente, que fez a prova final desta edição.

Sai nesta edição uma tentativa de ressurreição da coluna Postal de Portugal. Será uma pena não dar continuidade a ela. Dos portugueses nem um pio. Silêncio dentro e fora da terrinha. A coluna tenta retratar opiniões de vários autores e contribuintes portugueses, e não de um só. Da mesma forma que o PLData tem a cara dos membros, não a minha. Meu papel é de dar um retoque. Mas em vão, ela sai hoje pela última vez, se ninguém enviar um artigo para a próxima edição...

Mande seus comentários e críticas. Participe!

Enjoy this issue.



Do you know what this :-(*) means?

Most casual e-mail users already know a few basic online symbols, such as the ubiquitous sideways smiley :-) face. But to be a real aficionado you have to bone up on hundreds of other symbols. Here are a few for starters:

- #:-) Person with a matted hair or a toupee
- :-(*) About to upchuck
- #-) Partied too late
- 8-) Smiley with glasses or Bill Gates smiley
- ;-)} Corporate type
- [:-) Wearing a walkman
- 8:-) Brainiac
- :-" Chain smoker

Data: The Ultimate Chat Dictionary,
Tribal Voice, Inc.

I want some more...

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The VI Spring Conference from the PLD was a smashing success! No wonder, we had one of the best team of speakers ever covering diverse subjects and a variety of interests that would be interesting even to a Martian... Also, we had a very cohesive and enthusiastic group of attendees – 42 in total, among them some veteran professionals and some newcomers. Who could have asked for more?

My warm thanks to the speakers: John Jensen, Paulo Lopes, Tereza Braga, Lúcia Leão, Clarisse Melo, Renato Beninato, Tim Yuan, Kátia Iole, Arlene Kelly. I would like also to thank Albert Bork for being the proctor at the Accreditation Exam we offered on Sunday.

San Antonio was a terrific venue for an event like this one. You feel that you are never alone. It is small, cozy and full of life. Very friendly, and not so expensive. The hotel was also great, cute and close to major tourist attractions and shopping. One could walk easily to go anywhere from the Alamo to the Riverwalk.

On the first night, we organized a Tex-Mex dinner at a local restaurant and invited all participants to go. We had a huge table and lots of good food. Everybody enjoyed it. On the second night, we met at a local disco to dance. It wasn't line dancing, but it was crowded and lots of fun too.

I am very thankful for the support given by the previous PLD Administration, especially to Donna Sandin and Tim Yuan. Their input from previous meetings helped us a lot in organizing this one. Don't forget to read Lúcia Leão's and Tim Yuan's articles on it. They provide more details and some food for thought, too.

Now, with the Conference gone, we have our eyes in new and exciting projects for the Division in the next months. We will be working intensively on reviewing our web site. Stay tuned... You will hear more from us on this issue soon.

Another exciting and yet "embrionário" project is our Regional Workshops (Cursos Regionais). We already have some good ideas and soon will be sending out announcements on the first one to be offered.



**Quer ser dono de um pedaço
do nosso site na Web?**

Sorry, no stock option...

... but a lot of fun! Precisamos de um(a) voluntário(a) para cuidar da página Cool Sites / Sites Legais no website da PLD. Basta você gostar de surfar na Web. Quando encontrar um site que possa ser de interesse de tradutores e intérpretes, você atualiza a página. A atualização é simples e fácil de aprender.

E então? Participe!!!

Escreva para Vera Abreu, veraa@mindspring.com.

We have created a new committee to start working on our Directory. I want to thank members Tania VanDeusen and Else Andersen for their cooperation and enthusiasm. Since the ATA is working on directories for some of the Divisions, we want to learn with them what has been done already as not to duplicate tasks.

Also, in this issue, you will find some information on the project for a new PLD logo. Regina Cardoso da Silva, our Assistant Administrator, explains the purpose and format of this project.

We are enjoying serving you as PLD Officers. Please keep in mind that we don't get any breaks in prices or advantages from these volunteer positions and there is plenty of work to go around. We welcome gratefully any member interested in helping out.

Please let us know if you are interested in getting involved!

Um abraço!

Precision in Translation *Continuação da pág. 1*

Finally the last aspect of precision rarely specified is the target translation's intended audience. Such specific parameterization is for the translator rather than the client. Too many times the client specifies the level of language should be pitched at the level of an 8th grader, or 12th grader, or high school graduate; but it is the management which reads and critiques the final translation.

Then again there is the inverse situation where some company presidents insist every report no matter how complex the material should be intelligible at an eighth grade reading level. Or the lawyers complain they cannot understand an engineering document.

Precision then is an accurate parameterization of the client-translator relationship, and the translations themselves, so that each party has reasonable expectations of the other party. Part of this parameterization equation involves a forthrightness and honesty, which is often lacking in business today.

In the long run a client or agency will respect you far more for explaining the headaches that a particular language or subject material or tight deadline will present for you, rather than charging blindly ahead and making a mess of it.

John Rock, holds a Ph.D. in Physical Oceanography from the University of Liverpool, U.K. He has worked for the Instituto Oceanográfico, USP, São Paulo, Brazil, and for UNESCO in Athens, Greece. His career in the Oil Industry, involved the former Gulf Oil Company, and Schlumberger Wireline Services. He has been at various times a Marine Engineering Consultant, Computer Consultant, Geophysical Consultant and University lecturer in Applied Mathematics. For the last ten years he has been a full time freelance technical translator, based in Houston, Texas.

The Face of Translation - Reflections on Professionalism

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Something in Muriel Jérôme-O'Keeffe's speech at the last ATA conference in St. Louis caught my attention. She pointed out that translators and interpreters are finally becoming normal people! We used to be an elite, she explained, because our services were reserved for an elite. Not any more. Her point was that this is good, because finally we are heard. I agreed immediately but I also thought, "be careful what you wish for".

I've been mentally chewing on this since then. Just think of it: one billion people searching the internet every single day. And remember "Megatrends" – the more we globalize, the more we stick to our original culture, native language, whatever we have that is unique. The world is experiencing an enormous resurgence of language identity, as a direct reaction to the overwhelming threat of English, which is used in 70% of the world's mail and 80% of all computer data, according to Patrick Dixon in his book "Future-Wise". The ATA Chronicle says that 51 percent of people using the Net do not use English as their mother tongue. That is around 83 million people. And suddenly the world has so much more to communicate! Just think of electronic mail. I truly cannot understand where on earth I have found the hours that I now spend on e-mail! And yet, I find myself operating with increased efficiency because of it. Now think of global business and our profession. The internet has fueled the emergence of translation in the business scenario. Product development and localization depend more and more on technical translation. "E-commerce is also T-commerce", Muriel said. Translation commerce is now an industry moving many billions of dollars.

Yes, it's a great time to be a language professional. And that brings me to my topic, which is our increased responsibility to take our place in this new world and give language services a face. Yes, because most of us know that translation and interpretation still don't have a face to the public. At least not in this country. I even agree with whoever said that translation is still "an activity in search of its professional". Why? Because we, the professionals, have not yet cared to give it a face.

Some of us are not even trying. I know some who are actually lamenting the loss of our elite status. In a recent national conference in my native country, I heard veteran interpreters saying that they regret the loss of glamour and the "vulgarization" of the profession when compared with the "good old days". I felt sad. I guess we all tend sometimes to judge as vulgar what is, in fact, just new. And we are often scared of the new. I just had my application turned down this week by a cyberforum of conference interpreters. They wanted my date of birth, the names of my clients and the rates I charge (!?) I would not disclose those things and I was turned down with the explanation that I didn't have enough experience in the booth in order to participate. I thought it was a forum of ideas. That's okay. It's their forum. I may start my own. Even among veterans, though, there are many

who need to make a living. And most of us know too well that the market is changing in unexpected ways. We may be losing valuable help by closing doors.

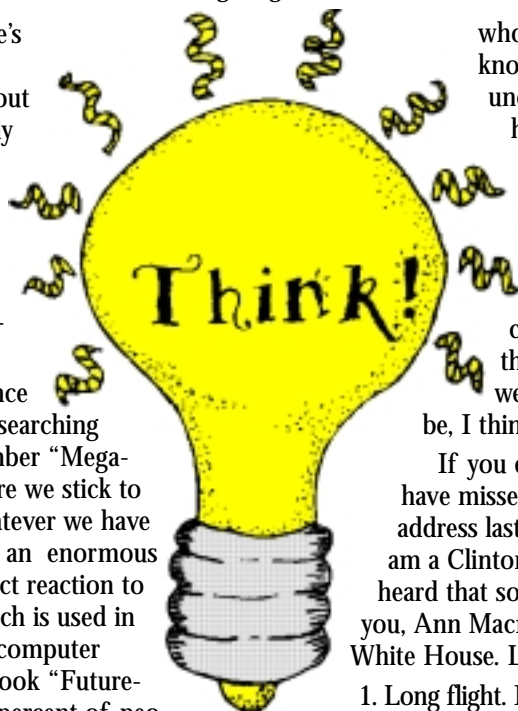
Quality. Speed. Teamwork. Our life as language professionals is changing, and rapidly. First, translation includes many more services these days and is becoming more of a process and less of an activity. Second, competition is now coming from all around the world. Time zones. New tools. The longer we remain faceless, the more difficult it will be, I think, to be successful and remain successful.

If you doubt that we are still faceless, you must have missed the broadcast of the State of the Union address last January. I confess, at my own risk, that I am a Clinton fan, but I wanted to kick him when I heard that sound byte about instant translation! Thank you, Ann Macfarlane and others, for the letters to the White House. Let me give you other examples:

1. Long flight. I get up to stretch my legs. The flight attendant is sitting in the back of the aircraft, looking equally bored. We start talking. Inevitably she asks "where are you from?", "Brazil", "what do you do?", "I'm a translator". This is a self-confident, smart, optimistic person: "you know what, I'm so glad I met you, you are so smart, I have this friend from Haiti, she's unemployed now and she keeps complaining, I told her how on earth can you be unemployed, you speak TWO languages! You know, people are lazy..." I smile, I give my little speech, we talk some more and I return to my seat. Did she listen? I doubt it. In the most developed country in the world, fairly educated people still think that language work doesn't need to be done by professionals.

2. Wednesday night. "West Wing", on NBC. I love this show. The State Department has sent an interpreter over to the White House for an important conversation with the Indonesian Minister of Defense. The Chief of Staff asks the interpreter "you speak Indonesian, right?" The interpreter: "Sir, there is no such language." The interpreter and the Minister speak two different Indonesian languages! Chaos. An assistant approaches, breathless: "I'm on it, come to the kitchen". Hilarious scene. A kitchen helper and the official interpreter both speak a common language, Portuguese! A foursome is established in the middle of the pots and pans. Soon the hair in everyone's head is standing up in exasperation. The Minister saves the day, "Mr. Chief of Staff, wouldn't it be better if we just spoke English?" Nobody thought of asking him! I laugh but the show goes on and our profession remains faceless.

3. This one I read in the Dallas newspaper, told by James Reza, an elderly Texas freelance writer, who once worked as a typesetter for a large manufacturer and exporter of ophthalmic products. Bud, the company salesman, rushes into the typesetting room and asks James to make a quick change to an insert that was to go to press soon. The change was in English but needed to be translated into Spanish. James says he can't do it for fear of misinterpreting



the medical terminology. Bud is furious, "James, you are a Mexican who speaks Spanish. What is so hard about changing a few words into your lingo?" James, who is American, randomly selects three words from the Webster's dictionary on his desk and asks Bud to explain what they mean. Bud can't explain a single one. "Now, Bud, what makes you think I should know the meaning of every Spanish word?" Way to go, James.

So, do we care that regular people don't know what a translator and an interpreter really are? I do. But we have some problems.

First of all, I think, we have a simple lack of professionals, i.e., people who have chosen translating or interpreting as their life profession. I have learned recently that 80% of working interpreters in the U.S. are untrained (Harry Obst, Inlingua). In fact, I think I can safely say that most of us became language professionals by happenstance, as I saw mentioned recently in a cyberforum for court interpreters. At least I did. I never decided one day that I was going to start from scratch and get the degree and the training to be a translator. I carried very helpful baggage from my education and my previous careers, granted. But I didn't do it from scratch. Now I look for education and training in every nook and corner I can find. Every day that passes makes me more aware of this handicap. My awareness helps me bridge that gap, studying, reading, asking, networking, going the extra mile. But first we need the awareness.

Second, the lack of common practices, norms of conduct, standards of quality, training opportunities and teaching methodologies. Progress has been slow but I think it is already accelerating. The supply will have to meet a demand that has grown exponentially, especially for interpreters, with global business and the increasing immigration of all kinds of professionals into the United States.

And third, which is my point here, we don't take time to "walk the talk" and promote our profession. Another favorite session of mine in St. Louis was "Promoting the Language Industry", with Diane Baughn. I already do that, I thought at first. Even in the airplane, I'm always explaining to people what it is that I do. But Diane alerted us to look for opportunities, not just act when they happen. It doesn't happen by magic. Call your child's school. Call your neighborhood library. Call universities, international business organizations, foreign language departments, professional groups, women's groups. Offer to speak. Ex-

plain the integral relationship between language and culture and how they are intertwined. Help create cultural awareness. Most people in the U.S. (65%, says the NAJIT forum) still have no real practical experience with other cultures or languages due to the size and position of this nation in the world. Become a mentor for a translator- or interpreter-to-be. When you speak, start with exercises with the audience in their native language. Diane Baughn suggests translating the same paragraph in English from one language register to another (an adult talking to a child, for example). It's great fun. Do "telephone" relay of information from the first person in the first row to the last in the last row. Educate and advertise yourself at the same time. Give translation and interpretation a face.

With clients, be alert to the way you answer the phone and the way you present your invoice. Professionalism begins at home. But stick to your guns. Know your product intimately. Give complete information to the client. Let her know how many drafts and revision marks are necessary to do quality work. Know the VALUE of what you do.

In his article "An Outsider Looks at T&I" (Chronicle, Aug 1999, p. 51), Marv Rubinstein reminds us that our path is no different from the path of registered nurses in the U.S. 40 years ago. And I'm thinking also of professors, doctors, lawyers and engineers, at different historical periods. They too were underpaid and treated in a perfunctory manner until they changed their attitudes and started to demand respect. Of course I know a lot of us who would disagree that we are underpaid. Some don't seem to care when clients delay payment for weeks or months. Until we truly regard ourselves as professionals, we will never have our profession fully recognized. Only exposure to professionals will educate people. We are finally getting the exposure. Let's rise to the occasion.

The author thanks Mike Stacy, dear colleague and friend, for proofing.

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Olavo de Carvalho's comments about the English language

Cartas do leitor

Comments in the article 'O "não" como estilo' (PL Data, September) about the English language were ridiculous. The writer mentions just two kinds of writing: complex German philosophy, in particular by Schelling; and "impressões do cotidiano", which he grudgingly says English is good for (unlike philosophy, according to his theory). He says that English is a limited language. But what about other areas such as poetry, oratory, literature, plays, and non-fiction, to mention just a few?

He points out that declinations and conjugations give Portuguese a flexibility that English does not have. But English achieves flexibility in other ways: for example, using its vast array of synonyms; and its use of nouns as if they were adjectives.

I am less well qualified to assess his theories covering Portuguese (for example, his notion that Portuguese is the best language in the world for philosophy). I read with interest his ideas about the length of sentences: "A gente chega à 15ª., à 18ª. linha, e o fio do pensamento está lá...". Around the time I saw this, a client who was asking me to do a translation wrote to me: "some of this stuff has a very Portuguese style, very long sentences, some of which are so complicated that I am sure the author lost track of his/her train of thought before the end of the sentence."

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Closeup

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Some excerpts taken from "Letter Perfect: A Guide to Practical Proofreading" by Peggy Smith and "Powerful Proofreading Skills" by Debra Smith and Helen Sutton.

Proofreading differs from Editing

Is there a difference? some might wonder ... YES, definitely. Proofreading and editing are two very refined skills necessary for a good translation project. We will be examining in depth some basic steps for proofreading and gradually cover a few of the many areas related to this topic. Secondly, we will touch briefly into the subject of editing, which can be explored at a later date.

A proofreader needs to have ONE objective in mind: making sure the copy you have created matches the original document in its format and accuracy. To achieve 100% accuracy and produce an error-free copy, you will need to check the following areas:

- Sentence structure
- Punctuation
- Grammar
- Spelling and usage
- Capitalization
- Numbers

ACCURACY is your TOP PRIORITY – speed must be secondary.

Proofreading can take either of two forms: Comparison proofreading and Direct proofreading

Comparison proofreading involves comparing, word for word, a new version of a document against an older version to catch and mark the differences.

Direct proofreading (without comparison) involves reading only one version of a document.

Now, let's go over some *tools and rules* for effective proofreading: before you start, make sure all the pages are numbered and in sequence. If you don't want any markings to show, write the numbers on the back page. If you are proofreading by comparison, check the page numbers of both the old and the new versions. Make sure all pages are included.

ABBREVIATIONS: *p. page* *pp. pages*
cap(s) capital letters(s) *lc. lowercase*
sc. small capitals, usually 70% of the size of full caps

Professional proofreaders use margin marks, although text marks are more common and useful.

Write instructions in the margin and draw a ring around them.

To delete a character, a whole word or an entire line, use a slash (/) through it.

The Latin word "stet" means "Let it stand" or "Ignore the mark; leave the copy the way it was before it was marked." This symbol is used when you cannot erase or cross out a mark made in error (for example, when you used a pen to mark incorrectly for something to be taken out). To stet a mistake: you simply put dots under the text mark, cross out the margin mark (if there is one), and write "stet" in a message ring in the margin.

Good proofreading is a complex process: looking for problems large and small in the use of language as well as problems

in the use of type. Few people can see both the whole picture and the details in just one reading. It is best to proofread everything at least three times.

1. To catch errors in spelling, grammar and usage.
2. Watch out for typographical errors, misalignments or inconsistent spacing between characters, words, or lines.
3. Be certain everything makes sense: sentence structure and the words in their context can make a BIG difference.

PUNCTUATION MARKS IN THE RIGHT PLACES: The clearest way to add or replace a punctuation mark or symbol is to write it in place. Flag the mark with a pointer beneath it. As an added precaution: make a checkmark in the margin, so the mark will not be overlooked. Periods, commas, apostrophes and quotation marks follow the same criteria.

An opening parenthesis needs its partner (a closing parenthesis). Brackets, quotation marks, and sometimes dashes belong in PAIRS. Catch the BACHELORS. (fun and humor are partners too)

Contrary to what you may have heard:
SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF !!!

Watch strings of little words..

Errors are as plain as the nose on your face,

Everybody can see it but **YOU**. Take extra care!

SENTENCE FRAGMENTS or incomplete sentence does not express a complete thought, although it may contain both a subject and a verb:

When the account manager called me this morning.

Correct: When the account manager called me this morning, I was delighted.

RUN-ON SENTENCES occur when two or more complete ideas (sentences) run together with no punctuation or spacing to separate them.

We have only three days until the annual meeting I don't have the annual report completed and that will take at least two days to finalize.

Correct: We have only three days until the annual meeting, and I don't have the annual report completed. It will take at least two days to finalize the report.

COLLECTIVE NOUNS: If the group is acting as a unit, use a singular verb. Ex:

The group meets every other Wednesday.

USE A PLURAL VERB AFTER: both, few, many, others, and several. Ex:

Many employees were invited, but few were able to attend.

OBJECT: Follows and receives the action of the verb. To determine the object, after the verb ask "what" or "whom".
(*Objeto direto em português*).

We purchased several computers for the classroom.

PREPOSITION: is a function word that shows relationship, like: to, at, by, for, on.

PRONOUN: takes the place of a noun. Ex: I, she, him, we, them.

HINT, HINT... use gender-neutral terms whenever possible. For instance:

Instead of mankind, use humankind
workmen's compensation, use worker's compensation
policeman, use police officer,
mothering, use parenting.

WATCH OUT for gender-specific pronouns, by changing the wording in a sentence from singular to plural:

From: Each supervisor must submit his proposal by Monday morning.

To: Supervisors must submit their proposal by Monday morning.

TIPS:

1. Mark only on material you will not harm: printouts, hard copy (from a computer or word processor), photocopies, or other kinds of copies.
2. Avoid proofreading on a computer screen.
3. Write clearly and mark neatly.
4. Have a partner to assist you when your proofreading is lengthy, highly technical or if the material is too complicated.
5. When proofreading numbers, read aloud-digit by digit.

EDITORS have additional responsibilities. They evaluate the style and format of a document and make the necessary changes. An editor's objective is making sure the document reflects six "C's" characteristics:

- Clear
- Concise
- Coherent
- Concrete
- Considerate
- Complete

Actual rewriting is necessary when editing-but not when one is proofreading.

Actual rewriting is necessary when editing-but not when one is proofreading.

Here is an example: Original Sentence: *I would like to take this opportunity to think you for agreeing to meet with me on Tuesday, November 7th.*

Proofreading Correction: *I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to meet with me on Tuesday, November 7.*

Editing Correction: *Thank you for agreeing to meet with me on Tuesday, November 7.*

Rationale: in the editing mode, the sentence was unnecessarily too long – it is called "wordiness". Starting a sentence with "Thank you" adds strength and objectivity, yet, notice the message remains intact.

Food for thought: when you are the writer, editor or typist proofreading your own work, you will almost surely suffer from nearsightedness (or myopia) – you are too close to see all the errors; get help!!

Joan M. Nogueira is a freelance translator/interpreter in Braz. Port/Engl. Raised in São Paulo since the age of five. After completing her studies in Music, she began teaching in São Paulo. She earned an under-graduate degree and a certificate in Courtroom Interpreting & Translating from Calif. State University Northridge. Former employee of Los Angeles Unified School District with a Vocational Teaching Credential in Business Occupations and Computer Applications.

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

Unknown Internet author

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

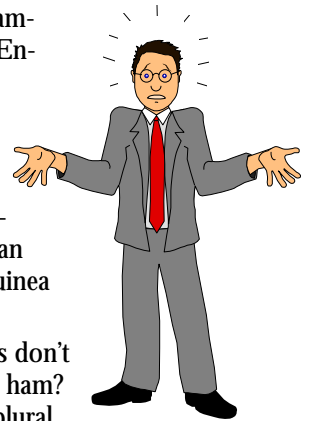
And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Perhaps one Kleenex, 2 Kleenices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend, that you comb through annals of history but not a single annual? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? If you wrote a letter, perhaps you bote your tongue?

Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park in a driveway and drive on a parkway? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same thing, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while quite a lot and quite a few are the same? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another?

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all). That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it.



Um novo logotipo para a Divisão!

Regina C. da Silva
rcelia@mindspring.com

Já anunciamos que estamos à procura de alguém criativo na reunião em San Antonio, mas para quem não estava lá, repetimos: por favor, quem tiver alguma boa idéia, apresente! O logotipo deve conter as letras PLD e algum símbolo, uma "identidade corporativa" para a Divisão. Como incentivo, ofereceremos um "gift certificate" de US\$25,00 da Amazon.com. Se possível, gostaríamos de ter um logotipo pronto até 10 de maio. Contamos com vocês!



Postal de Portugal

Informações obtidas no site da Sociedade Portuguesa de Autores, <http://www.spautores.pt>, reproduzidas aqui em português casto.

O que é o Direito de Autor?

Juridicamente, um direito do homem (artigo 27º da Declaração Universal) e um direito fundamental dos cidadãos portugueses (artigo 42º da Constituição da República Portuguesa). Praticamente, a contrapartida económica da utilização por terceiros das obras literárias e artísticas (na sua vertente patrimonial) e a garantia do respeito pela paternidade e integridade dessas obras (na sua vertente pessoal ou moral).

O Direito de Autor no Mundo

Segundo um documento distribuído no decurso da reunião do Conselho de Administração da CISAC em Tóquio, os direitos de autor cobrados em 1998 pelas 164 Sociedades Confederadas que operam em 92 países elevaram-se a cerca de 33 biliões de francos franceses (mais 5% que no ano precedente), que se repartem por continentes da forma seguinte: Europa, 57,91% (sendo 52,27% provenientes dos países integrantes da União Europeia); América, 22,35% (repartidos entre 23,26% para a América do Norte e 4,12% para a América Latina); Ásia/Pacífico, 15,42%; África, 0,38%. Uma vez mais, foi a JASRAC japonesa a Sociedade com maior volume de direitos cobrados (4,4 milhões), seguida pela GEMA alemã (3,2 milhões), a SACEM francesa (2,9 milhões) e a aliança inglesa PRS/MCPS (2,9 milhões). No conjunto das 164 Sociedades confederadas, a SPA situa-se em 28ª posição e em 19º lugar relativamente às 77 Sociedades europeias. Portugal ocupa o 20º lugar entre os 92 países representados na CISAC.

Mensagem do Dia do Autor - 1999

Senhores!

Cumprem-se este ano 160 anos sobre aquele em que chamei a mim a mais distinta e nobre missão que pode exercer um homem de letras: dotar de uma lei que os defenda aqueles que se dedicam à profissão das letras e das artes, profissão que entre nós foi sempre tão despalida. Essa lei, Senhores, é a lei da propriedade literária, a mais indefesa, porém a mais santa, a mais inquestionável de todas as propriedades, a que se cria pela inteligência e pelo espírito imortal do homem.

Não é essa, por certo, pequena honra, pois assegurar aos artistas o fruto do seu engenho e dos seus labores, perseguir a fraude e a pirataria dos ignóbeis especuladores que vivem e enriquecem à custa do suor e do estudo alheio, é realizar enfim praticamente a antiga utopia da república das letras.

Ao redigir esta lei, ao apresentá-la aos senhores deputados da nação, não tive outra mira senão o interesse e a glória do meu país, ligando-o a um dos actos mais honrosos e civilizados que o podem perpetuar na História.

Eu sei, vós sabeis, que no terreno das letras e das artes há, como em todo o comércio, quem desonre a sua útil e nobre profissão e só mire a sacar o lucro, seja à custa de quem e de que princípios for. A estes tais a protecção dada à propriedade literária lhes parecerá uma atrocidade. Não faltará quem blasfeme contra ela, nem faltarão sofistas para adogar essa má causa, porque a safra deles é imensa em nossos dias.

No antigo regime davam-se, por mercê d'el-rei, privilégios a favor dos autores, dos impressores ou de corporações, findos os quais se entendia que toda a obra entrava no domínio público e que, vivo ou morto o autor, com herdeiros ou sem eles, qualquer a podia usar como coisa sua, ou coisa de ninguém, que tanto vale. Era esta, Senhores, uma lei iníqua e absurda que instava substituir por outra que fosse digna do século e dos princípios por que protestamos ser regidos. Posso asseverar-vos que o zelo pelas letras de que sou humilde cultor, não me fez adoecer da moléstia do tempo: não preparei uma lei improvisada. O projecto que apresentei às Cortes era fruto de dois anos de meditação e estudos. Coleccionei a legislação de todos os países civilizados, procurei acomodar as suas disposições às nossas circunstâncias, hábitos e precisões. E se as intervenientes comoções políticas, em que este nosso país tão fértil se mostra, retardaram por doze anos a sua final aprovação, pôde ele enfim converter-se em lei e deste modo prestar homenagem à força intelectual e ao poder do espírito, consagrar os direitos do pensamento e fortificar ainda mais a liberdade de o exprimir.

Uma palavra ainda. Entre as muitas coisas que sonhei, havia a ideia de fundar uma associação de socorros mútuos para proteger os autores face às arbitrariedades dos empresários. E porque não, ocorre-me agora, uma associação à semelhança daquela que em França, terra em que o saber é tanto, e tanto se honra a quem sabe, o grande Beaumarchais imaginou e pôs em prática? Pensai nisso, se acaso não habeis pensado - e talvez realizado - já. Deste tempo distante em que a vós me dirijo - lembrai-vos de que nasci há exactamente 200 anos - sem dúvida parece isto um sonho. Mas, como dirá um poeta vosso contemporâneo, é o sonho que comanda a vida e faz o mundo avançar. Também era um sonho a ideia da propriedade literária, e no entanto bei-la convertida em lei do país.

Aí a tendes. Fazei dela o uso que melhor souberdes. Aperfeiçoai-a em tudo e sempre que vos parecer necessário. E de todas as vezes que ela for atacada, defendei-a como ela vos defende a vós.

É esta, Senhores, a herança que vos deixo.

JOÃO BAPTISTA DA SILVA LEITÃO ALMEIDA GARRETT

Ministério da Cultura dá Razão à
Sociedade Portuguesa de Autores

Na defesa dos direitos autorais

O Gabinete do Direito de Autor do Ministério da Cultura - a que, nos termos da lei, compete a promoção da protecção do direito de autor e direitos conexos - acaba de elaborar um parecer acerca da controversa questão da comunicação de emissões de rádio e televisão em lugares públicos, tais como restaurantes, cafés e hotéis. Esta questão tem oposto a Sociedade Portuguesa de Autores, que em nome dos autores nacionais e estrangeiros que representa defende a exigibilidade do pagamento de direitos autorais nessas situações, à Associação Portuguesa dos Industriais de Hotelaria, que sustenta posição contrária com apoio num parecer da Procuradoria-Geral da República, publicado há alguns anos. O parecer daquele departamento do Ministério da Cultura reconhece que a posição da SPA "se conforma com a interpretação corrente nos países aderentes à Convenção de Berna" e que essa interpretação é "largamente dominante a nível internacional e mesmo geral no seio dos Estados-Membros da União Europeia". Aliás, os tribunais portugueses têm-se "maioritariamente pronunciado em sentido favorável à posição expressa pela SPA", que assim se encontra confirmada e fortalecida.

Os Tribunais e o Direito de Autor

Três decisões dos nossos Tribunais merecem destaque pelo rigor que evidenciaram no reconhecimento das prerrogativas que assistem ao autor quando se verifica a utilização de uma obra sua. Assim, o Tribunal da Relação de Évora confirmou uma decisão do Tribunal de Portalegre condenando o proprietário de um café desta cidade numa pena de 205 dias de multa e na perda a favor do Estado de três aparelhos de televisão e várias colunas de som. Por sua vez, o Tribunal de Ovar impôs ao proprietário de um café, como condição da suspensão do processo por um período de 6 meses, a entrega de 20.000\$00 a uma instituição de solidariedade social e ainda a "não ter no seu estabelecimento qualquer aparelho de TV a emitir imagens e sons sem pagar os respectivos direitos à SPA" e a "proceder ao pagamento a esta da quantia de 16.900\$00 proveniente da emissão de TV por cabo". Por último, o Tribunal Judicial de Portalegre condenou o proprietário de uma discoteca na pena de 180 dias de multa, ou subsidiariamente em 120 dias de prisão, e nas custas do processo, bem como a pagar 58.833\$00 à SPA e os honorários ao seu advogado.

DICAS DE PORTUGUÊS

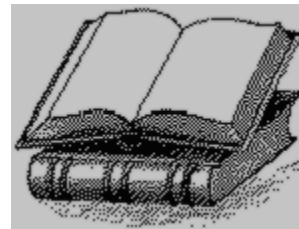
Maria Augusta Laporte
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Como escrever Siglas.

Veja bem, se a sigla tiver até três letras (ONU, MEC, CEF) ou se todas as letras forem pronunciadas (PMDB, INSS), todas as letras são maiúsculas. Agora, se a sigla tiver mais de três letras, apenas a letra inicial é maiúscula: Otan, Embrapa, Vasp, Detran.

Nada de pontinhos entre as letras, certo? Para fazer o plural, basta acrescentar um esse minúsculo no fim da sigla: PMs, DDDs.

É isso aí.



Babel Brasil

(Texto adaptado de O dia - Contribuição de Leon Mindlin)

Novo Aurélio no papel

Foi lançado no Brasil, 24 anos depois de sua primeira edição, o novo Aurélio (98 reais, Livraria Cultura, SPaulo). Ele traz 28 mil novas palavras. Entre as gírias, foram incluídas, por exemplo: piranha (presilha de cabelo); sarado (valentão, forte); morgar (dormir); perrengue (bate-boca, aperto); sair do armário (assumir a homossexualidade); amasso (agarramento) e até boa-noite-cinderela (golpe em que a vítima é levada a ingerir sonífero). Outro destaque é o informatês, a novíssima linguagem dos computadores. Ganhamos verbetes termos como arroba (sinal gráfico empregado em endereçamento eletrônico), bug (defeito de execução de programa de computador) e chat (bate-papo virtual informal).

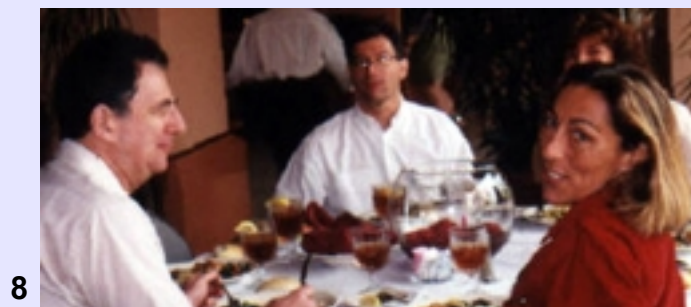
Porta-voz do dialeto das favelas, o rapper Mr. Catra tem várias sugestões para popularizar o Aurélio. A começar pelo bordão "Tá ligado?" (compreende? está atento?). "Quando fico em dúvida sobre uma palavra, não consulto dicionário. Se meu povo não vai entender, prefiro nem escrever. Se esse Aurélio quer ser popular, então manda escrever lá: tô bolado (estou aborrecido, preocupado); simpático (puxa-saco do chefe); bruxo (policial); comédia (sujeito otário)", sugere Catra.

Site do Michaelis na Internet recebe oito mil sugestões de palavras para nova versão do dicionário

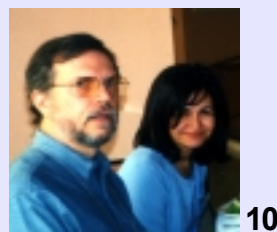
A edição atualizada do dicionário Michaelis, concorrente do Aurélio, será editada no segundo semestre do ano que vem. "Há seis meses criamos o site <http://www.uol.com.br//michaelis> para receber sugestões de palavras pela Internet. Já temos 8 mil na lista de espera e muitas serão consideradas, diz Breno Lerner, diretor-geral da editora Melhoramentos, que publica o Michaelis. Algumas das sugestões incluem: simba (vamos embora com isso); grelice (uma forma de ser fina, grossa e muito gostosa), meu truta (meu parceiro).

6ª. Reunião da Primavera em San Antonio

Agradecimentos especiais pelas contribuições de Gabe Bokor, Minouche Martins e Margarete Marchetti.



1. **Os Instrutores:** John Jensen, Tereza Braga, Lúcia Leão, Clarisse Mello, Tim Yuan, Kátia Iole, Renato Beninatto e Paulo Lopes.
2. **As Administradoras:** Regina C. Silva, Vera Abreu, Kátia Iole e Margarete Marchetti.
3. Kátia Iole, Michael Kowalewski, Tim Yuan, Tânia Machado VanDeusen e Else Andersen.
4. Lúcia Leão, Steven Mines e Clarisse Mello.
5. John Rock
6. Steven Mines, Maria Augusta Laporte, Renato Beninatto, Tereza Braga e Claudia Dutra.
7. Arlene Kelly e Maria Augusta Laporte.
8. Gabe Bokor, Henrique Levin, Maria Augusta Laporte e Márcia Frias.
9. Regina C. da Silva
10. Albert Bork e Regina C. da Silva.
11. Arlene Kelly e Edith O'Connor.



Impressões de San Antonio

Lúcia Leão
Lucialeao@aol.com

“O que você faria se hoje fosse seu último dia de vida?” Viveria os mínimos detalhes com um prazer intenso e renovado – é a resposta da maioria, mesmo que a forma de enunciá-la varie.

Foi com essa pergunta que Paulo Lopes encerrou sua brilhante apresentação sobre interpretação em 25 de março, sábado, segundo e último dia da 6ª Reunião da Primavera da PLD (Portuguese Language Division) da ATA realizada este ano em San Antonio, Texas.

Mas Paulo – o único entre os 40 participantes a vir do Brasil para o evento – não deixou a pergunta sem resposta. Na verdade, sua densa e divertida apresentação foi uma resposta, e a partir dela podemos também definir o tom da reunião de San Antonio.

Aliás, você, leitor, já deve estar querendo saber o que a pergunta que abre este artigo tem a ver com tradução, interpretação, e com o nosso encontro. Vamos ver.

Contando com a impecável organização da administração de Vera Abreu, Regina da Silva, Kátia Iole e Margarete Marchetti, a reunião forneceu as condições perfeitas para a indispensável troca de experiências e conhecimento entre tradutores e intérpretes de português.

A sala de reuniões; o restaurante do hotel Ramada Emily Morgan, de onde se via o Alamo; e o Riverwalk, com sua brisa suave e suas curvas repletas de história, foram locais de conversas valiosas do ponto de vista social e profissional.

As apresentações foram muitas e todas bastante esclarecedoras.

Tim Yuan falou de alguns aspectos da tradução comercial, enveredando nos labirintos das *bonds, bills*, vencimentos e rendimentos. O público acompanhou, concentrado, relembrando alguns termos e ampliando seu conhecimento.

John Jensen apresentou questões do uso do subjuntivo no português e no inglês, em uma revisão mais do que bem-vinda.

Arlene Kelly mostrou alguns problemas de equívocos de definições em dicionários de termos jurídicos e todos ficamos ainda mais atentos para essa questão.

Renato Beninato passou pelos aspectos mais básicos e importantes da função de um tradutor, apresentando exemplos e dicas para a redação de um texto correto, preciso e elegante.

Kátia Iole compartilhou sua experiência de onze anos como legendadora para o português, mostrando exemplos “vivos”, cenas de filmes

Continua na pág. 13

Reminiscências de um ex-Administrador

Tim Yuan
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Ufa! Terminei um trabalho de 60.000 palavras às 6 horas desta manhã, quando os primeiros raios do sol nascente começavam a despontar no horizonte, anunciando um dia glorioso de calor primaveril. A reunião da PLD em San Antonio foi apenas um copo d'água goela abaixo e cabeça acima nessa maratona. Já voltara a me debater com as entranhas dos condicionadores de ar da Honda no vôo de regresso a Nova York e aproveitei para enviar um arquivo ao cliente na escala em St. Louis.

Ainda sentindo o torpor das endorfinas correndo pelas minhas veias, prostrado na cama com o livro novo de Frank McCourt na cabeceira, pensei em nossas vidas como tradutores e nesses anos todos de ATA e PLD. O que mais me impressionou em San Antonio talvez tenha sido as ausências. Gabe Bokor, Albert Bork e Edith O'Connor estavam lá, dando-nos um senso de continuidade. Tânia Machado-VanDeusen, Thelma Sabim e eu formamos o time intermediário, mas éramos poucos e nenhum de nós se envolveu diretamente na organização do evento. Estamos nas mãos hábeis e decisivas de uma nova geração.

Além da passagem dos anos e da transição de rostos na liderança da Divisão, vivemos este momento tão incerto no mundo da tradução. A globalização e a onda de fusões e aquisições no setor turvam as águas. As empresas compram-se quase que semanalmente e fica difícil até lembrar dos nomes. A concorrência no exterior está se acirrando cada vez mais. Olhamos com preocupação nos olhos de nossos clientes, que começam a dirigir sua atenção a outras possibilidades além-mar.

Tudo isso balança nossas bases. O mundo se transforma à nossa volta. É fácil perder de vista os nossos objetivos, perder a objetividade. É fácil esquecer que a demanda em nosso campo continua a crescer exponencialmente. Ignoramos a explosão da Internet e as possibilidades profissionais que isso cria para nós. O aquecimento do comércio internacional passa despercebido.

Talvez seja bom sermos retirados à força da acomodação desses anos todos de trabalho inesgotável. Quem sabe possamos dar aquele passo que há tanto tempo adiamos em nossas vidas profissionais - deixarmos a segurança das agências de tradução e nos aventurarmos no universo dos clientes diretos. Talvez finalmente mandemos fazer o folheto de marketing. Procuraremos aquela lista de possíveis clientes no fundo da gaveta.

Após San Antonio, fiquei com um gostinho bom na boca. As novas administradoras mostraram que sabem o que estão fazendo e que têm idéias. Serei o primeiro a me inscrever nos *workshops* e cursos que elas estão planejando. Serei o primeiro a arregaçar as mangas e ajudar a organizá-los. Preciso aprender mais para poder competir no novo mundo da tradução e a PLD está bem posicionada para me ajudar. Como sempre estive nos vários estágios da minha carreira, desde quando eu era um principiante em 1992, na Conferência de San Diego, com Edna Ditaranto, Donna Sandin, César Tavares, Susana Greiss, Alzi Platts, Gabe Bokor, Albert Bork, Edith O'Connor, Thelma Sabim e Clarissa Surek-Clark.

Mas a PLD sempre foi o que nós estivemos dispostos a fazer dela. Fiquei impressionado com as ausências em San Antonio, mas foi um sentimento bom. É claro que as 60.000 palavras que terminei hoje de madrugada ajudam, mas sinto esperanças principalmente porque o barco está em boas mãos, mesmo sem Edna Ditaranto, Lourdes Norton e Tim Yuan com as mãos no leme. E é bom descobrir que nossos fundos não irão para o brejo sem Donna Sandin na tesouraria. A nova geração está participando. Obrigado a todos e até Orlando.

Timothy Yuan has a B.S. in Computer Science from Columbia University, is a former programmer at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, and has worked as a freelance translator since 1990, specializing in computer localization, and as a conference interpreter for the U.S. Department of State and the private sector since 1995. He is the former Administrator of the PLD and is ATA's Director.

Assuntos da Associação

Minutes of the VI Spring Meeting of the Portuguese Language Division of the *American Translators Association*

Meeting was convened at 3:30 on Friday, March 24th, 2000, at the Ramada Emily Morgan Hotel, Majestic Room, in San Antonio, site of the Annual Conference.

Meeting was presided by Vera Abreu, Administrator. Regina da Silva, Assistant Administrator, Margarete Marchetti, Treasurer and Kátia P. Iole, Secretary, were also present.

There were approximately 40 members of the division present.

Vera Abreu introduced the new administration to all participants. She talked about how the division was founded back in 1997 with a small translation group, and explained that today we have about 332 members in the Portuguese Language Division. Official numbers have not yet been disclosed by ATA.

Vera stated the importance of active participation of all members, requesting volunteers to send articles of common interest to be published in the PLData, as well as any information that would be pertinent and of benefit to all participants. She also asked of those who have e-mail to receive and keep receiving PLData electronically. The file is a .PDF file and can be open with Acrobat Reader, which may be downloaded free from the Internet in case you don't have one. PLData is the division's biggest expense, and whatever can be done to keep costs down is greatly appreciated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Margarete Marchetti, thanked Donna Sandin for all her hard work in keeping all records well organized. The Division's Treasurer reported the Division's finances as follows:

As of December 31st, 1999, there was a balance of US\$ 3,360 from membership association.

Expenses for the first quarter totaled US\$ 2,050, US\$ 708.00 for PLData publication, the biggest expense. There is a remaining balance of \$4,793 from previous years, which may be used to cover deficits.

Budget for the year 2000 may see a deficit of \$1,290, less \$390 we will save since the Division Directory will no longer be printed.

Planned expenses for 2000 are \$900 for the PLData publication, \$800 for the Editor, and DTP costs of \$1,200.

San Antonio' Spring Meeting has actually broken even, costing approximately \$3,200.

Vera talked about the idea of placing ads in the PLData to generate more funds for the Division.

WEB PAGE

Vera said that as explained in previous meetings and PLData, the current page is outdated, and difficult to manage. The Division has hired Caitlin Walsh, webmistress, to give the page a more refined and simple look, with easier and useful links, as easy to search. The budget for such upgrade is \$750. The administration has several ideas to include in the site and welcomes anybody's contribution. The Division welcomes with open arms any volunteers who would like to keep the webpage updated.

DIVISION'S LOGO

The Division is not happy with the current one and requests any ideas from its members to change it. Any and all ideas are welcome.

ARTICLES FOR PLDATA

Publication is every three months, and anyone who is willing to place an ad in the PLData, and to send articles please contact Vera Abreu. The editor is thinking of several theme columns to become permanent in the publication.

ACCREDITATION

Vera Abreu mentioned about all actions taken by ATA with the accreditation exams being taken or performed abroad. ATA lifted the temporary restrictions, as informed by Tim Yuan, Director.

Vera informed of the Annual ATA Meeting in Orlando, September 20-23, 2000, and encouraged everyone to send proposals for presentations at the conference. There are innumerable advantages to giving a presentation at the annual ATA, including name recognition, and publication in the Proceedings, not to mention personal résumé, marketing and contact opportunities with agencies and companies present at the Conference.

All presentations must be done in English and the Division encourages everyone who presented at the Portuguese Spring Meetings to do the same in Orlando.

The Chronicle, ATA monthly publication, will have Portuguese as feature language in its August issue.

WORKSHOPS

There was a brainstorming discussion of different topics the Division may be preparing for future workshops, like "Portuguese Grammar", "Interpretation Seminars", "Technical Translation", and several others. All opinions were heard and a general interest seems to exist. Kátia Iole mentioned the idea of organizing some of these workshops right before or right after any of the bigger meetings, like our Spring Meeting and ATA meeting, to save on travel costs, etc.

Locations will be determined according to interest and concentration of members.

SPRING MEETING – 2001

Although everyone votes on this issue, it is ultimately the Division's responsibility to decide where the next Spring Meeting will take place based on viability of costs. Some possibilities mentioned were that of a Cruise, North Carolina, Washington and New York.

Respectfully submitted,

Kátia P. Iole

Secretary

Erramos!

Na edição de Dezembro-99, saiu um artigo intitulado "I love you... ou Eu a amo...". O verbo amar é, na realidade, transitivo direto e pede objeto direto. Ou pode ser intransitivo. Não é, como colocamos, transitivo indireto.

Impressões de San Antonio

Continuação da pág. 11

que legendou e que foram verdadeiros desafios lingüísticos e de criatividade.

Paulo Lopes e Tereza Braga foram a dupla da apresentação final que teve de tudo e que manteve os participantes ligados até o último minuto.

Clarisse Mello e eu abordamos alguns dos desafios da tradução de textos jornalísticos.

E foi uma boa surpresa receber, ao final da reunião, nosso certificado de participação. Se eu já havia tido um enorme prazer ao preparar, junto com Clarisse, a nossa apresentação, esse prazer se multiplicou durante os dias em San Antonio, durante a apresentação dos colegas e a interação tão tranqüila e prazerosa.

Foram vários os pontos de destaque, mas o que restou em mim como imagem da reunião pode ser resumido na possível resposta à pergunta com a qual abri este artigo.

A administração teve um cuidado especial com os detalhes do nosso encontro e esse foi um fator decisivo para o sucesso da reunião. A atenção aos detalhes que caracteriza um bom profissional de tradução e de interpretação estava visível também nos preparativos do encontro e no trabalho que os colegas apresentaram.

Voltei para casa com a noção do prazer renovado pelo que faço, esse trabalho cotidiano com as palavras. E com a certeza de que o prazer é maior, e que se renova, sempre que encontramos núcleos de interesse, profissionalismo e intensidade, como foi o caso dessa reunião. O interesse de um contagia o outro, o conhecimento de um se transporta para o outro, o prazer de todos se torna seu e no final saímos todos mais bem preparados e “energizados” para dar continuidade à nossa tarefa de viver enredados nas palavras escritas em nosso computador ou proferidas em cabines de interpretação.

E é com as palavras que luto agora para terminar este texto. Se iniciei com uma interrogação, coloco outra aqui e pergunto:

Você já foi a alguma Reunião da Primavera da PLD? Não?

Então, vá.

Lúcia Leão é carioca e formada em Inglês e Literaturas pela UERJ, possui mestrado em Literatura Comparada pela UERJ e mestrado em Jornalismo pela Universidade de Miami.

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O barato sai caro...

Marcia Buckley
crest@lagosnet.com.br

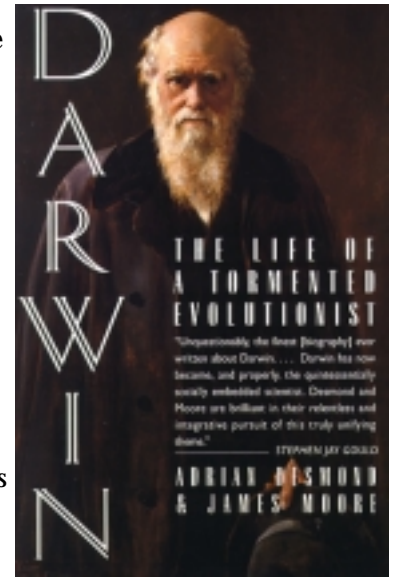
Quem comprou a versão brasileira da biografia “Darwin, a vida de um evolucionista atormentado”, de Adrian Desmond e James Moore, deve guardá-la com cuidado.

De acordo com o jornal O Globo, o livro, com 800 páginas, tem dois mil erros de tradução.

Mas, a partir de abril, poderá ser trocado gratuitamente por um exemplar novo, que a editora da obra, Geração Editorial, está lançando para substituir e corrigir o antigo.

O caso é inédito nos compêndios da defesa do consumidor.

Para quem mora fora do Brasil e que não tem o problema da regulamentação, talvez exemplifique apenas o velho ditado: o barato sai caro. Para nós aqui, que estamos lutando pela regulamentação da profissão, serve de alerta (e de munição).



PL Notes

Informatês em Guarani?

Marcia Buckley
crest@lagosnet.com.br

Algun de nós, meros mortais, já pensou como seriam os termos da ciência da computação em línguas indígenas, como o Guarani, por exemplo? Há pouco tempo deparei-me com algumas perólas, publicadas no caderno de Informática do jornal O Globo:

AYU RYRURIVE - é como eles chamam o computador. A expressão quer dizer “caixa para acumular a língua” e foi escolhida porque os guaranis usarão a máquina para guardar informações sobre a cultura da tribo.

ANGUJA - rato em guarani. Portanto, é assim que eles vão denominar o mouse. Essa foi fácil.

OVETÃ - janela. Está sendo usada no lugar de Windows. Outra expressão que não deu muito trabalho.

ARANDU PYTY VÕÃ - assim foi batizada a escola. Significa “escola para ajudar a memória”. É uma brincadeira com o uso do micro para os índios e com o conceito de memória nos PCs.

QUIRINGUÉ - crianças. Animadas com o computador, fizeram a maior festa na inauguração.

SOFTWARE: Está dando trabalho. Ainda não há tradução.

Marcia Buckley foi intercambista do American Field Service em Mosto, Califórnia. É formada em letras e tradutora desde 1978. “A Dictionary of Petroleum Terms”, de sua autoria, encontra-se em fase de impressão. Atualmente reside em Macaé, Brasil.

Calendar of Events

June 2000

Suggestions? Events you want to post? E-mail them to me!

Heather Murchison at hmurchis@whidbey.com

May 2000

Some of you might be interested to know that the journal *Tradução e Comunicação*, which was published from 1981 to 1986, is about to resume publication. Details are as follows: *Tradução e Comunicação*. Revista Brasileira de Tradutores publishes texts (articles, reviews, notes and information) pertinent to the field of translation and to communication in general. Inquiries should be sent to: *Tradução e Comunicação*. Revista Brasileira de Tradutores, A/C Prof. Aداوري Brezolin (adauri@unibero.br), UNIBERO - Centro Universitário Ibero-Americano, Av. Brigadeiro Luís Antônio, 871, 01317-001 - Bela Vista - São Paulo - SP - Brasil.

April 2000

26-29th. Maastricht, The Netherlands. 3rd International Maastricht-Lodz Duo Colloquium on "Translation and Meaning", AND Lodz (Poland), 21 - 24 September 2000. The Maastricht session of the 3rd International Duo Colloquium will take place in April 2000 and the Lodz session in September 2000. More info. at <http://ftvmaastricht.congres.nedweb.com/>.

28th-30th. Manchester, England. Research Models in Translation Studies, University of Manchester, England. The three-day Conference will host plenary lectures, papers, panel discussions and poster presentations. For info contact maeve@ccl.umist.ac.uk or mona@cclumist.ac.uk

29-30th. Seattle, Washington, USA. The 3rd International Workshop on Controlled Language Applications (CLAW2000),. Information at: www.up.univ-mrs.fr/~veronis/claw2000.

29th. Boston, MA. New England Translators Association's Conference and Exhibition, Boston College. For information contact: Regina Correia-Branco (978) 465-9955 rcorreiabranco@nec.mass.edu or Ken Kronenberg (617) 734-8418 kkron@tiac.net or visit <http://netaweb.tripod.com>.

4-6th. Washington, D.C., US. Georgetown University Round Table on Languages & Linguistics 2000 (GURT). Theme: Linguistics, Language, & the Professions: Education, Journalism, Law, Medicine, & Technology. Contact: GURT 2000, Dept Ling, Georgetown U, Washington, DC 20057; alatisj@gusun.georgetown.edu.

19-21st. Miami, FL, USA. The 20th Annual National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) Meeting And Educational Conference. For information: phone: (212) 692-9581, fax: (212) 687-4016, visit <http://www.najit.org/>, or e-mail at headquarters@najit.org.

25-27th. Edmonton, Alberta, CA. Canadian Association for Translation Studies 13th Annual Congress, "Translation and Coherence", Information: e-mail lousieb@alcor.concordia.ca.

31st May- 4th June: San Juan, Puerto Rico. Seventh International Conference on Language and Law, of the International Academy of Linguistic Law, "Language of State - Language of the People", in cooperation with the Ateneo Puertorriqueno and the national universities of the Island. The Conference will be preceded by an International Symposium on Bilingualism. For further information contact: Lic. Eduardo Morales Coll, Presidente, Ateneo Puertorriqueno, Apartado 9021180, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-1180. Tel.: (787) 721-3877, 722-4839, 724-5922. Fax: (787) 725-3873.

May 31- June 2. Athens, Greece. Second International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, LREC-2000. The aim of this conference is to provide an overview of the state of the art (of LRE), to discuss problems and opportunities, and to exchange information regarding ongoing and planned activities, language resources and their application. Information at <http://www.icp.grenet.fr/ELRA/lrec2000.html>.

1-3rd. Vitoria/Gasteiz, Spain. III International Conference on Cultural Transfer (literature, film and translation) at Universidad del País Vasco, Departamento de Filología Inglesa y Alemana. For information, e-mail transvases3@vh.ehu.es. General topic areas will be, among others, the study of literary translation, film adaptation as well as translation and/or adaptation in the audiovisual media as basic forms of cultural transfer today.

6-8th. Catania (Sicily), Italy. Translation and Multimedia: from the Monitor to the Big Screen. International conference to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of AITI, the Italian Association of Translators and Interpreters. For information on attending the Conference and/or presenting papers check AITI's website at <http://www.mix.it/aiti> or contact Raffaella Rojatti, Segreteria organizzativa Multimedia 2000, multimedia.congress@uni.net.

18-21st. Recife, Brazil. Fifth International Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA). The theme of the conference is Brazil at 500 years - an exploration of the past, reflections on the present and Brazil's future through humanistic and social studies, economics and administration. For further information visit the Congress webpage at <http://brasa.unm.edu/brasa5.htm>.

July 2000

16-20th: Campinas- São Paulo, Brazil. III Conference for Sociocultural Research. Convened by the Society for Sociocultural Studies: In Memoriam Of Paulo Freire. For more information see <http://fae.unicamp.br/br2000/>.

25-28th: Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. Terras e Gentes, Ano 2000, VII ABRALIC Congress (Associação Brasileira de Literatura Comparada). For further information contact: e-mail:abralic@ufba.br, FAX: 0 (xx) 71 336 8355, postal address ABRALIC, Instituto de Letras da UFBA, Rua Barão de Geremoabo, 147, Campus Universitário de Ondina, 40170-290 Salvador - BA Brazil

August 2000

13-19th: Pretoria, South Africa. International Comparative Literature Association World Conference, University of South Africa (Unisa). Two workshop sessions have been organized: The Legacy of Descriptive Translation Studies and Encounters with Otherness: New Context Formation by Translations and Translators. Contact Persons: Ohsawa Yoshihiro, University of Tokyo at Komaba, 3-8-1 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-8902, Japan, FAX: +81-3-5454-4325, e-mail: GHB01144@nifty.ne.jp OR John Milton, Universidade de São Paulo, DLM, FFLCH, USP, CP8105, 05508-900, São Paulo-SP, Brasil, Fax: +55-11-818-5041, e-mail: jmilton@usp.br.

24-28, Innsbruck, Austria. 5th International Congress on Terminology and Knowledge Engineering "Multimedia and Content for a New Millennium". For more information, see: <http://gtw-org.uibk.ac.at>.

September 2000

20-23rd, Orlando, FL, US. American Translators Association, 41st Annual Conference, Wyndham Palace Resort. For more information, contact the ATA, phone: (703) 683-6100; fax: (703) 683-6122; and e-mail: conference@atanet.org, or visit www.atanet.org/conferencemain.htm.

October 2000

18th-22nd: San Francisco, CA, US. American Literary Translators Association (ALTA) 2000 Annual Conference. See www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/ALTA/ for details.

41st Annal Conference
American Translators
Association
Orlando, Florida
September 20-23, 2000

Visit site:
www.atanet.org

19-21st: Madison, Wisconsin, US. Second International Congress of American Portuguese Studies Association (APSA) will convene at the University of Wisconsin. For more information see www.people.virginia.edu/~dth/apsa.html.

November 2000

2-4th, Kansas City, MS, US. Midwest Modern Language Association Congress, will include a Luso-Brazilian Literature and Culture panel. Contact Steven F. Butterman, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1018 Van Hise Hall - 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706, e-mail: sfbutter@facstaff.wisc.edu

14-17th, Lisbon, Portugal. RITERM: VII Simposio Iberoamericano de Terminologia. Instituto de Linguística Teórica e Computacional, Terminología e Industrias de la Lengua. Contact: Dra. Carla Sacadura, Cabral ILTEC, Rua Conde de Redondo, 74-6º, 1150 Lisboa - Portugal, phone: +351-1-356 30 82, Fax: +351-1-352 81 12, e-mail: csc@iltec.pt, Website: <http://www.unilat.org/>

19-22nd, São Paulo, Brazil. Automatic Processing of Written & Spoken Portuguese Language. Contact: Lucia Helena Machado Rino, Dept Compu, Ctr Tech, U Fed São Carlos, Caixa Postal 676, 13565-905 São Carlos, SP, Brazil; 016-260-8232; fax: 016-260-8233; <http://www.dc.ufscar.br/~lucia>.

July 2001

23-27th: Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil. ABRAPT (the Brazilian Association of Translation Researchers) and the Federal University of Minas Gerais are pleased to announce the 8th National Translation Forum and the 2nd Brazilian International Translation Forum. Translating the New Millennium: Corpora, Cognition and Culture. For further information please contact: VIII Encontro Nacional / II Encontro Internacional de Tradutores, PosLin - Programa de Pós-Graduação em Letras: Estudos Lingüísticos, FALE - 4. andar, Av Antônio Carlos, 6627, Campus UFMG - Pampulha, Belo Horizonte - MG - Brazil, 31270-901.

Heather Murchison has a Ph.D. in chemistry, has worked for many years in biotechnology and is now working as a translator, ATA accredited, from Portuguese into English, specializing in scientific and medical translations.

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Profa. Regina Alfarano

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O que é considerado “ bom português” nos dias de hoje?

2, 3 e 4 de junho, 2000

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Info and Registration form at the PLD website, click on Activities

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