



Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Ateangairí na hÉireann

ITIA Bulletin

2018 / 1

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Editorial

The start of the new year sees the ITIA hit the ground running with a slew of activities lined up for both members and non-members: of the planned CPD events so far, we are hoping to offer a workshop on Transcreation, numbers permitting, an area many professional translators are opting into, in May. We have sent out a rates survey available for completion by both members and non-members which gives all our colleagues the opportunity to contribute to forming a picture, when information is collated, of current rates.

We have introduced the option of a membership card for associate and professional members which will be offered for the first time with membership renewal this coming May/June.

With the very positive response of last year as a further incentive, we will run the secondary school translation competition again this year and will introduce yet another language - Polish, which will be added to Chinese, French, German, Irish, Italian, Japanese and Spanish. Please spread the word!

Further information on the above can be found below!

Anne Larchet, Editor

Michael McCann, Former ITIA Chair and founder of InfoMarex, international translation agency and database, shares a study on Target Languages

TARGET LANGUAGES

In the shifting sands of language translation, a recent study carried out by InfoMarex Translations on the target languages being offered by translators internationally shows that 9 languages occupy pride of place. For the study, a database sample of 5,196 translators was used.

The percentage figures below of 9 principal target languages on offer by translators show some surprising results. Languages offered by 2% or fewer translators were not listed so as to avoid margins of error.

English	15%
Spanish	14%
Italian	10%
French	7%
German	6%
Portuguese	6%
Russian	6%
Arabic	5%
Chinese	3%
Polish	3%
Total	75%

The international predominance of English as the new lingua franca of trade, communication and music is unsurprisingly in first place. The presence of Spanish towards the top of the list reflects the substantial number of translators available from Mexico to Argentina, and parts in between. What is surprising is the number of

Italian translators translating from 24 languages. This is perhaps a reflection on the number of excellent primary degree translation courses offered at universities the length and breadth of Italy.

Portuguese takes into account both Brazilian and continental Portuguese, as indeed Chinese reflects both Simplified and Traditional versions of the language and its various dialects. However, the Chinese percentage is deceptive as a significant amount of English and other languages is being translated directly by agencies within China and proportionally few translation requests are coming onto international markets, with a high number of proofreading requests coming on to international markets requiring native English speakers.

What is also unexpected is the volume of Polish translators in the marketplace, translating from just 11 source languages. This is from a nation which has a 'small' population by international standards of just 40 million persons and for a language which, for all intents and purposes, is a minority language among the more widely spoken ones of the world. What is surprising, or perhaps not at all, is that 95% of Polish translators offer English as a source language, which is a reflection of the predominance of English on the world scene and the business reality acumen of Polish translators.

Sorry to say that the remaining 225 (96%) principal world languages offered, in this analytical survey, are translated by only 25% of international translators. The demand for translation into these principal world languages is in sharp decline. While websites and internet articles abound locally and nationally in these remaining languages, the fresh blood of translated texts into these languages, which may very well have high numbers of speakers, such as Hindi (260 million) or Urdu (80 million), is generally low.

The metaphor may be poor, but translations into any language are infusions of blood stimulating the language to greater life and resilience. A striking example of this is Finnish into which 17% of published books, or around 500 new books per

annum, are translated thus guaranteeing the energy of the language.

What is clear is the vibrancy of translation at present, despite incursions by so-called machine translation, in some persons' minds not translation at all; post-machine editing; language and translator overcrowding in certain fields; the general unregulated nature of the profession in certain countries; to say nothing of the relentless international pressure on translation rates world-wide.

Weaker non-primary world languages, weak by their own internal structures or inflexibility, lack of modern grammar, syntax or even vowels, lack of vocabulary, lack of linguistic blood transfusions, will continue in decline until they become no longer target languages at all, but the mere subjects of academic research.

It may be a truism, but language strength attracts strength. Weaker non-primary world languages, weak by their own internal structures or inflexibility, lack of modern grammar, syntax or even vowels, lack of vocabulary, lack of linguistic blood transfusions, will continue in decline until they become no longer target languages at all, but the mere subjects of academic research.

Michael J McCann
Celbridge,
January 2018

ITIA interpreters can learn much from this article

Interview with Bernadette Ferguson ISL/English interpreter re ISL Legislation

After many years of campaigning by the Irish Deaf Society, the Irish Sign Language Act (2017) was passed in the Dáil on 14th December and

President Michael D. Higgins signed new legislation conferring legal recognition on Irish Sign Language on 24th December. What does this mean in practice for both the deaf community and our colleagues, ISL interpreters?

Bernadette Ferguson, an ISL/English interpreter with many years for experience, in particular in all of the many legal settings, talks to the Bulletin about this historic day.

Prior to the new law the Deaf* community had access to interpreters in many dealings with the public services and the courts, so what will change? Ferguson says that, amongst a number of improvements in services for the Deaf community and provisions in education, the new legislation will allow for ISL interpreters in all courts, including all civil cases, by right. She believes that particularly in the family courts, this will improve matters, with each party now having their own interpreter. There were two previous failed attempts to have ISL recognised as a language, in part because there was a concern that the services required to support the legislation were not in place. Now ISL has the same status as any other language, with its own grammar, syntax, vocabulary and most importantly, its own culture. By recognising ISL's status, on a par with any other language, it will raise its profile and hopefully attract students to ISL interpreting as a viable career option. The Education Act of 1999 mentioned ISL and other sign languages in an appendix, with ambiguous wording, possibly referencing Sign Supported English (SSE) - a combination of English grammar and signing. Certainly in the past there was a diglossia in the Deaf community, in the most part influenced by the type of SSE used by hearing educators, but now ISL users take great pride in their language, further enhanced with the official status.

Section 7 of the new law states that courts and public bodies are not permitted to employ or engage unqualified interpreters and that a new register of competent interpreters must be established. Sign Language Interpreting Services (SLIS), a public body funded by the Citizen's Information Board, will carry out

accreditations and hold the register to ensure that no unqualified or non competent interpreters can be assigned to jobs There were accreditations in the past, but they were hosted by SLIS (formerly Irish Sign Link) and therefore agency based rather than nationally based. Interpreters and the Deaf community alike had always hoped for a national register as is held in other jurisdictions. The Council for Irish Sign Language interpreters (CISLI) welcomes this development. To date there have been three accreditations in 1997, 2000 and 2006. These were aimed at graduates of courses and others working in the community to establish levels and who could be deemed competent for legal and medical areas. Ethical as well as language issues are covered. There was an initial status R1- registered qualified and R2 - registered trainee. Ferguson envisages some similar restrictions for interpreters working in legal and medical fields.

...courts and public bodies are not permitted to employ or engage unqualified interpreters and that a new register of competent interpreters must be established.

As the new requirements will unquestionably increase demand for interpreters, is there sufficient supply? Currently there are not enough ISL/English interpreters and the only institution that offers training and a qualification in Irish Sign Language interpreting is the Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin. This is now a 4 year degree course leading to a Bachelor in Deaf Studies. One of three strands can be taken in the final two years, ISL interpreting, ISL teaching or Deaf Studies. In Bernadette's day options were very limited - she graduated from an EU funded course offered by UCC and Bristol University in 2000. The only previous cohort graduated from a combined Trinity College Dublin/Bristol University programme in 1994. She says the profile of ISL interpreting students has changed radically over the years. Previously the majority of the students were mainly from the Deaf community. Many were mature students with some fluency in Irish Sign Language. Now the

students apply through the CAO and are much younger. Trinity's annual intake of students is approx 20. The nature of the language teaching (visual rather than sound-based) requires smaller classes. Approx 5 places are held for mature students and people with a disability - the category through which Deaf people may apply. The number of ISL interpreters who graduate per annum varies and in recent times hasn't reached double digits. Ireland is considered fortunate as some other countries have lost their Deaf Studies departments.

Section 9 of the law refers to a scheme to be provided for social and cultural events, interpreting in social settings e.g. attending a neighbourhood watch meeting, going to a garden centre, cultural events etc. In countries such as Iceland, Finland and New Zealand there is a voucher system for this type of interpreting work, provided by the state. This will certainly increase demand on an insufficient current supply. While this scheme wasn't specifically detailed in the legislation (somewhat of a disappointment for the Deaf community) the reference to such a system is promising and offers inclusion in parts of Irish cultural life currently often inaccessible.

Bernadette is not from the Deaf community but came in contact with Deaf people, a girl on her road, a local priest, from her early years in 1970s/80s London where she lived with her family. Her mother was a native Irish speaker and Bernadette describes being from a minority community, speaking a minority language within an immigrant community. By the time she got to UCD and became very involved with Dram Soc she had a basic level of signing. A Howard Brenton play, *Weapons of Happiness*, had a Deaf character and this, combined with making friends with a Deaf student was pivotal in setting Fergie, as she is known, on course to working and belonging to another minority community with a minority language.

Although a relatively small community - the Irish Times mentioned a figure of 50,000 - it encompasses a plethora of associations and organisations including the Irish Deaf Society, Deafoward (an advocacy service), the Deaf Adult

Literary Service, DeafHear, The Dublin Deaf Association and many regional Deaf clubs, the Deaf Heritage Centre and Deaf Sports Ireland, which has links with the Deaflympics. Many of these representative organisations are located in the Deaf Village in Cabra which has a gym, a swimming pool and sport facilities and plays a major role in the community. In more recent years objectives appear to be unanimous and many of these groups lobby together in their quest for better resources in education, ISL provision, subtitling etc.

The last census contained a question about Irish Sign Language usage but was considered unsatisfactory by the Deaf community in that it was vague in its wording. ISL users consider themselves part of a linguistic minority.

The interview came to an end with Bernadette heading off to a political assignment, yet another aspect of her work as an ISL/English interpreter. This involves her watching live TV coverage which is then replayed and rerecorded with Bernadette signing on-screen. She also undertakes a lot of 'voiceover' work, interpreting from Irish Sign Language into English.

* In Deaf Studies and other literature 'Deaf' with a capital D is used to denote culturally Deaf sign language users, as opposed to 'deaf', to denote hearing loss.

Anne Larchet

ITIA 2018 kick start

The ITIA executive committee would like to thank everyone who completed a very short survey about membership cards. We wanted to find out (a) if our members would like to have an ITIA membership card and (b) if they would be prepared to pay €10 per year for such a card. Of the 149 responses, 67 were from professional, 66 from associate and 15 from affiliate members. Eighty-nine respondents work as translators, 4 as interpreters and 56 as both. A total of 87 respondents stated that they would be interested in a membership card while 62 had no interest. Most of those who expressed interest in a card (73 respondents) were willing to pay €10 while 76

were unwilling.

Our membership year is from 1st June each year to the 30th May. In May 2018 notifications of membership fees will include an option for professional and associate members to opt in for a membership card at an additional cost of €10 per annum. Those interested will be asked to provide a photo and membership cards will be posted out.

ITIA Executive Committee

Our Chairperson, Dr. Mary Phelan, is looking for your input

The ITIA frequently receives queries from newcomers to the translation industry, translation and interpreting graduates and translators and interpreters who are moving to Ireland, all asking about appropriate rates. We suspect that many well-established translators and interpreters would also be interested in knowing more about rates charged by colleagues. Under competition laws, we are not permitted to recommend rates. However, we can share information about the rates translators and interpreters charged last year for their language combinations.

To this end, the ITIA executive committee has created a questionnaire to find out how much freelance translators and interpreters charged for their services in 2017. The questionnaire is based on a similar survey carried out by the German association BDÜ. I would like to thank Karl Apsel for translating the BDÜ questionnaire into English and Miriam Watchorn for developing a first draft with input from all the members of the executive committee who trialled the questionnaire and made very useful suggestions as to how it could be improved.

Please, note that the survey is anonymous and we would encourage all active translators and interpreters to respond. There are two versions, one for translators or translator/interpreters and a separate, shorter version, for interpreters only. The questionnaire for Translators and Interpreters looks long (51 questions) but only about half will be applicable to most respondents.

The questionnaire for interpreters consists of 15 questions.

We would be very grateful for your input. The results of the survey will be published in the ITIA Bulletin.

RATES SURVEY for Translators or Translators and Interpreters:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QYKWNW2>

RATES SURVEY for Interpreters only:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCLYFLR>

Best wishes

Mary Phelan, ITIA Chairperson

CPD Upcoming all-day transcreation workshop on Saturday 30th June 2018 in Writers Centre

The ITIA are planning a transcreation workshop focusing on commercial and in particular practical aspects of transcreation work, including plenty of exercises and examples. Some theoretical content will be covered. Nina Sattler-Hovdar, Norwegian-born translator, transcreator and author of BDÜ-published book 'Translation - Transkreation – Über-Setzen zum Über-Texten' (2016) will offer the workshop to members and non-members.

More details to follow. As the workshop can only be run if a minimum number apply, please do reserve a place as soon as details are supplied.

Snippets

This article covers new language learning and/or reviving previously (not well) learnt language all wrapped up in present day technology - what's not to like!!

Céad míle fáilte! Have you forgotten all the Irish you learned in school? I found that it never stuck unless there was some interesting context, which is why Irish 101, Dublin City University's first MOOC (massive open online course), is quite appealing. This is not rote learning, it is discovery of the Irish language through our culture and

customs.

Irish 101 is hosted on the Open University's online education platform FutureLearn and, as with most MOOCs, free. It kicked off on January 29th so you can still join in. You can expect to learn Irish language greetings and blessings (and curses!) as well as exploring the language by way of its association with music, sport and ancient Irish mythology.

And you're not only learning some modern Irish, there is also a component on Ogham and the origins of the Irish alphabet. We can only hope some Boston Irish brothers take this course and make the world a better place with less badly spelled Ogham and Celtic font tattoos.

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Original link: <https://tinyurl.com/y8ov8ft4>

Worth-a-Click

This link in Spanish demonstrates how a low cost machine translated shortcut of a regional tourism website can lead to a very expensive right way of doing things, not to mention public opprobrium from wasting taxpayers' funds

<https://tinyurl.com/ydxa2b7c>

A link in German telling the tale of how going beyond professional code of practice can result in justice being well served

<https://tinyurl.com/ybmsqh78>

These links cover the extraordinary milestone of Irish Sign Language being recognised in law

<https://tinyurl.com/y8fnljr6>

<https://tinyurl.com/yapnhrop>

<https://tinyurl.com/ya8t8v9o>

What's hot, what's not

What's HOT...

2017 marked the 20th anniversary since the first Harry Potter book was translated. Translations now number 80 languages, the last/latest one being the Scots version by Matthew Fitt.

...What's NOT

Deadline for translation from date of publication of the original was six to eight weeks, regardless of the length of the book. No pressure then!

New ITIA Members January 2018

New ITIA Associate Members

Birgit Spalt

English and French to German

Lorna Shaughnessy

Spanish to English

Róisín Ní Cheallaigh

English to Irish

Quelba Lima Dos Santos

English to Polish and Polish to English

Malgorzata Stich Silva

Polish and English and English to Polish

Denis Wettman

German to English and English to German

Sarah Berthaud

English to French and French to English

New ITIA Affiliate Members

Fatima Rahmani

Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is pleased to welcome new members to the association. We currently have the following categories of membership:

- Professional
- Associate
- Affiliate
- Institutional
- Student
- Honorary

Professional Membership is awarded to translators or interpreters who meet the strict criteria of the ITIA based on qualification and level of experience.

Applicants must also achieve a PASS in the annual Professional Membership Examination (translator or interpreter) set by the ITIA.

Associate Membership may be granted to holders of a third level qualification in translation and/or interpreting and/or languages or to holders of a third level qualification with relevant experience.

Affiliate Membership is generally availed of by people with a professional interest in translation and interpreting, by those with a general interest in these professions or by professionals from other sectors who wish to work in the area of translation or interpreting and do not currently have a specific qualification or experience in the area

Institutional Membership is available to bodies that do not function as commercial agencies, for example university centres for translation and interpreting studies or cultural institutes. Application documents for Institutional membership are currently being prepared.

Student Membership is available to persons undertaking undergraduate studies in any discipline or those undertaking postgraduate studies in translation or interpreting.

Honorary Membership is awarded by the ITIA AGM to persons in Ireland or abroad who have distinguished themselves in the field of translation or interpreting.

Contacting the ITIA

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