



Portuguese Language Division of the ATA

Volume 4, Number 2, June, 1994

CHEAP SIMULTANEOUS EQUIPMENT

There is nothing quite like having to do *consecutive* interpreting of technical material (complete with overhead transparencies and slide shows) when the job description promised equipment for *simultaneous*. The experience is enough to make one cast about for alternatives. Unfortunately, the name brand companies that cater to the market price their products based on corporate and government budgets. The cheap, fast and dirty solutions come, believe it or not, from Radio Shack. Fritz Hensey --linguistics professor and federal court interpreter-- taught local interpreters how to adapt Radio Shack camcorder wireless mics and receivers to make mini-conference simultaneous setups. Designed for court situations, the Hensey setup still relied on one receiver per pair of listeners using y-jacks for their headphones --even at Radio Shack prices that adds up to a lot of receivers when there are, say, thirty people in attendance. There is also the problem of "roadying" dead batteries etc., while interpreting. The variation on the Hensey solution I like is to buy a couple of camcorder wireless mic sets, that's two mics and two receivers, at \$75 a pop. This makes for mediocre hearing because the set offers line output only, with a two-position (low and very low) volume switch. To boost the speaker's voice in the interpreter's headphones, get a couple of Radio Shack standard audio cassette dictaphone recorders (with tape counter) for \$65 apiece. Run the line current (on low volume) to the mic in jack on the cassette recorder and plug your headphones into the headphone jack on the recorder. This allows you to turn up the speaker's volume in your earphones to drown out your own voice. The sound *quality* isn't great, but the *price* is, and if a component gets ruined on the road, replacements are as near as the local Radio Shack dealership. As an added attraction, the setup allows you to make tapes of the proceedings with very little extra work. The entire kit (both setups plus extra batteries) fits easily into one of the larger-size fanny packs designed for bicycle riders. Lulls in the presentation are an opportunity to load up the standby units with fresh tapes and batteries.

Where there is no equipment, there is usually no booth. The trick here is to put some distance between yourself and the speaker and rely on the inverse-square law to minimize interference between presenter and interpreter. Most of the crowds I interpret for are made up of individuals whose grasp of English spans a sort of spectrum. In these impromptu situations, the more bilingual participants tend to sit (or walk) closer to the speaker while those knowing no English arrange themselves near the interpreter, who must speak in a clear, loud voice in order to be heard by persons wearing no equipment. When the batteries begin to fail on any of the setups, switch it out for a standby unit and continue with little or no interruption. I have used these setups for "travelling" interpreting in flying circus group tours of banks and computer factories with excellent results even when the environments were *noisy*.

The tape unit records the presenter's voice in the foreground. The interpreter's voice is also recorded, albeit less clearly and at lower volume. This affords some "insurance" for the client, who might want to purchase a copy as a record or to verify interpreter accuracy. Needless to say, a second tape can be made of just the interpreter's voice using the standby dictating cassette if need be. These cassette recorders are also useful in the interpreting booth for making interpreter's copies of source or target language output. Here you connect the earphone out on the receiving unit directly to the mic in jack on the recorder (at low volume). The led intensity light lets you monitor the recording level. The source language can be easily recorded by connecting a cable from the ear output on booth equipment. I don't like to do this because it disables the earphone part of the headset. It is much easier to put a recorder close to the speaker.

Compared to consecutive interpreting, simultaneous is easier for the linguist and more cost effective (by half) for the client. The flow of the speaker's presentation is not broken up as much and listeners can control their language "mix" by changing their distance from interpreter or speaker. Better mic jacks can be soldered onto the wireless transmitter units, and I have modified my equipment in several ways to make it easier to handle and harder to break. Until a better alternative turns up, freelance interpreters have the cost-effective option of adapting Radio Shack camcorder and dictating equipment to impromptu or mobile interpreting situations. --JHP



Cartas

Resposta à Autora:

Apena-me sobremaneira que a sra. tenha ficado "sentida" com minha carta inconseqüente. Quando eu tinha 17 anos--60 anos atrás--eu também imaginava que sabia tudo. E zangava com quem me criticava. Mas com o tempo fui aprendendo e acabei percebendo a tremenda utilidade da crítica pois quanto mais me ensinam mais vejo que preciso aprender. Aprendi, entre outras coisas, que "criticar por criticar" significa "discernir por discernir", o que me parece excelente (veja um dicionário que inclua dados etimo lógicos). Não brigue comigo, Lurdinha, que eu sou de paz e ficaria muito chateado se você resolvesse não mais compartilhar sua sabedoria conosco.

Como prova, aqui vão alguns comentários sobre *Legalese à brasileira*. Os termos alinhados pelo Mike Stacy são muito úteis e oportunos. O que me causa espécie em qualquer "glossário técnico" é que termos corriqueiros sejam apresentados como "jurídicos". (Entre minhas atividades, colaborei no Brasil com várias sumidades do direito brasileiro, como o Dr. Dante Delmanto e a Dra. Esther Figueiredo Ferraz.)

- adjust prices to changes that occur - legalese?
- any expenses/if any - legalese?
- as the case may be - legalese?
- in this case - good golly!
- in which case - well...
- for more than 30 days - se um tradutor não sabe traduzir isso, deveria voltar à escola; tipo do troço manjado
- within 20 working days - dito; também está no Vallandro
- even if - !!!!!!!!
- in the event of - legalese?
- henceforth/hereinafter/hereunder- please!
- itemize- !
- kind, of any kind - idem
- for the nth month - este é um termo de matemática *referente a um número ordinal infinitamente grande: 25 à enésima potência*. Por extensão, exageradamente grande, ou pequeno, extremo, cansativamente repetido: "Esta é a enésima vez que você me pede o carro emprestado. Não adianta, não empresto"

- null and void - pelo amor de Deus! "tá" no Vallandro, que dá outro sinônimo, **irrito**.
- prime rate - vastamente usado em propaganda comercial, em esporte e outros campos
- prime rate (interest) - termo econômico referente à taxa de juros concedida a clientes muito bons, muito merecedores. Ou muito amigos
- in direct proportion to - termo lógico, matemático, estatístico, etc.
- next qualified bidder - a tradução correta seria: licitante melhor (mais bem, porque advérbio não se flexiona) qualificado
- insurance in force - qualquer coisa in force está em vigor, é válida, não expirou, não venceu, continua a valer, a ser aplicada

-paragraph 4.7 - item is OK, mas é solução de amarelo, tipo *cookie cutter approach*; mais exatamente "parágrafo 4, alínea 7" ou "número 7"

-long-term/medium term/short term - francamente!

-at all times - idem

*Mike Stacy diz: Velloso's letter speaks nicely for itself. A nossa autora, Lourdes Norton opta por não responder. Sempre é gostoso banhar-se em água de rosas, mas assim também o mestre acaba se afogando em pouca água, além de correr o risco de melindrar os nossos colaboradores. Aos interessados em dicionário jurídico, descobri um entitulado **Enciclopédia do Advogado**, por Leib Soeibelman, Editora Rio que parece muito o Black's cá dos EU. Não sei onde comprar, mas tô caçando. --JHP*

Thelma Leoni Sabim
Monmouth Junction, NJ

Caro Hank,

Apenas uma nota rápida para os colegas tradutores usuários do Word Perfect que estejam pensando em fazer a atualização para a versão DOS 6.0. ESPEREM!! Já estou usando esta versão e está extremamente lenta para processar as funções *Retrieve* e *Speller*. Além do mais, é totalmente incompatível com o WP 5.1 e também não aceita o dicionário português (BR) do WP 5.1, sendo necessário comprar um Módulo de linguagem exclusivo para o 6.0. Para que as palavras adicionadas no dicionário suplementar do WP 5.1 (aquelas palavras especiais coletadas durante anos de spelling) é necessário ler o arquivo do WP 5.1 WP{WP}BR.SUP no 6.0 e fazer o *spell* deste arquivo, fazendo o ADD WORD das palavras que não constem do dicionário do 6.0.

Sugiro portanto, para os colegas que quiserem fazer a atualização procurarem pela versão melhorada do 6.0, ou seja, a versão 6.0b. Ou, se quiserem continuar com o 5.1, existe a versão 5.1 Plus, que pode ler os arquivos criados pela versão 6.0, apresentando também o recurso de fax interno, e o preço é de US\$ 49.

Fica a pergunta para os usuários do WP WIN se esta situação de incompatibilidade existe também entre a versão WP 5.2 e WP 6.0a.

Um abraço, Thelma

Aí v. me apertou. Só uso Microsoft Word para todo o meu trabalho. A versão DOS 5.5 para datilografar e Winword para impressão em português com gráficos, etc. Ressalto que os dicionários da Alki Software são tão ruins que empresários brasileiros insistem que eu, como intérprete, devia arrumar um jeito de fazer com que a Microsoft corrigir os defeitos. Quem sabe se um colega não pode ajudar com uma resposta à colocação? --JHP

From: Leon Mindlin, MULTILINGUAL
Subject: O tradutor traído, ~~farsa~~ tragédia em três atos

Caro amigo J.Henry:

Seu artigo (suponho que seja de sua autoria!) no número de março de PL DATA, referente aos percalços que o

tradutor autônomo enfrenta em suas relações comerciais com as Agências de Tradução, merece uns rápidos reparos, me parece.

Em primeiro lugar, a Agência de Traduções não é uma "agency" no sentido jurídico da palavra, conforme esta é usada aqui nos E.U. Um *agent* não adquire a mercadoria (no caso, a tradução), mas sim somente age como intermediário entre os dois *principals* --aqui, o cliente final e o tradutor-- cobrando uma percentagem do preço por seu serviço.

Na realidade, a Agência compra a tradução e a revende, com uma margem de lucro bruta, ao cliente final. Com outras palavras, a Agência é um negociante como qualquer outro --uma ocupação perfeita honrosa, diga-se de passagem. Diga-se também, talvez menos de passagem, que o/a próprio/a tradutor/a é comerciante --ou, pelo menos, devia sê-lo (e, não sendo, pagará o inescapável preço exarado pelo mundo dos negócios: perdas financeiras. Como dizem nossos amigos: Quem não tem competência não se estabelece.)

Bem, mas voltemos ao assunto principal. A Agência de Traduções não é uma representante, contratado pelo tradutor para defender seus interesses perante terceiros. É um simples freguês (um *customer*, embora eles prefiram o termo *client*, mais elegante). Assim, o que interessa mesmo, em última análise, é que o freguês pague a mercadoria comprada.

Portanto, parece-me que o perigo maior e mais imediato que ameaça a nos todos, tradutores autônomos, não é o contrato de algibeira, capaz de subtrair do pobre tradutor os frutos futuros de seus labores (quicá o próprio prêmio Nobel). É, sim, (e trata-se de uma realidade que o próprio amigo menciona, assim meio de raspão, quando se refere ao fato de que a Agência Grande Vilonia, autora do contrato maroto, está *currently involved in a bankruptcy suit*) então, dizia eu, é, sim um perigo muito mais imediato... e muito mais doloroso: é o do tradutor não receber seu dinheirinho, ou de recebe-lo após semanas ou meses de espera.

Para lidar com esse perigo --tão mais real do que a perda de eventuais direitos autorais ou da agência processar o tradutor por perdas e danos etc. etc.-- apresentam-se os seguintes obstáculos:

(1) Os tradutores não têm fácil acesso a esta ferramenta elementar de qualquer transação comercial -- a **informação de crédito ou ficha cadastral**. Parece-me que muitas Agências não figuram no Dun & Bradstreet e os tradutores não querem, têm medo ou preguiça de, ou não sabem como, pedir informações de crédito, nem mesmo quando a transação é vultosa.

(2) Os tradutores deixam de pedir o mais fundamental dos documentos comprobatórios do pedido feito pela Agência: uma **ordem de compra**, estipulando a natureza do serviço, a especificação do preço e --*last but not least*-- as condições de pagamento: contra entrega? à vista? 30 dias da data? Com outras palavras, o tradutor prescinde desse elemento importantíssimo --um documento comprobatório imediato e irrefutável (isto, na hipótese de haver algo de irrefutável nesse nosso mundo moderno) da existência e dos termos de um *contract*, no sentido jurídico da palavra.

(3) Finalmente, quando as dificuldades começam, a maioria dos tradutores se entrega indefesa, como ovelhas levadas, senão ao matadouro, pelo menos à tosquia. Raro é o/a tradutor/a que sabe se valer de métodos modernos de cobrança, do uso

sistemático dos relatórios de crédito tipo TRW, das agências de cobrança e dos *Small Claims Courts* (inclusive da cobrança pós-vitória judicial --frequentemente a parte mais difícil da empreitada).

(4) A conclusão final é que, em sua grande maioria, tradutores são masoquistas, do tipo retratado pelas imorredouras palavras do samba: *Engane-me, que eu gosto!*

Tanto é que até o título de seu artigo reflete a natureza auto-destrutiva de nossa classe. O grande problema do tradutor é --e o título de sua matéria deveria ter sido --CAVEAT VENDITOR!

Um abraço.

Foi esse, aliás, o working title do artigo. Mudei-o eu, que nunca tive, com equivocado receio de que alguns leitores tivessem perdido o seu latim. Aproveito a ocasião para esclarecer que o artigo não caracteriza a ninguém, pessoa física ou jurídica, como vilão, e sim, trata de analisar os termos de um contrato. Ficou claro que o sr. não gosta do termo "agency". Quanto à atividade exercida por estas pessoas jurídicas, consta do Dicionário de Economia de Paulo Sandroni: "CORRETAGEM. Atividade do intermediário entre comprador e vendedor." Agradeço muito suas observações, e na necessidade de se precaver, concordo, assim como concordou Lysander Spooner em 1869, ao citar estatutos vigentes à época:

" The following are some of the provisions of the Massachusetts statute:

"No action shall be brought in any of the following cases, that is to say:...

"Unless the promise, contract, or agreement, upon which such action is brought, or some memorandum or note thereof, is in writing, and signed by the party to be charged therewith, or by some person thereunto by him lawfully authorized."

"No contract for the sale of goods, wares or merchandise, for the price of fifty dollars or more, shall be good or valid, unless the purchaser accepts and receives part of the goods so sold, or gives something in earnest to bind the bargain, or in part payment, or unless some note or memorandum in writing of the bargain is made and signed by the party to be charged thereby, or by some person thereunto by him lawfully authorized."

Ergo, caveat venditor. --JHP

Dear Editor:

Everybody is entitled to his own opinion, but I reject totally your "legal figure" of a "translation broker." To begin with, I choose the broker I want and trust; it isn't the other 'round.

I have discovered to my chagrin that many an erstwhile translator, tired of working hard for his fee, decides to have others working for him: he has stationery printed as a businessman, more specifically as "Translation Agent"--without any working capital or any of the other requirements for a bona-fide businessman.

Because I have been ripped off several times by those self-described agents I have set myself a simple rule when I get a request for translation from party or parties unknown:

I write, phone or fax him/her/them asking whether they adhere to an ATA guideline, arrived by consensus in its 30th Conference (1988), viz.:

"The work connection between translator and translation agency must be strictly one of business, with payment guaranteed IN ALL CASES and within a reasonable time SET IN ADVANCE [emphasis added] between agency [as each and all clients] and translator."

If requests come from such illustres desconhecidos, either corporate or individual, I insist additionally in being told about their *rates* for plain, semi-technical, and technical work; also, whether any kind for formatting is required (in the D.C. area, formatting is paid an extra 1.5¢ a word. Because I consider myself a foreign language translator and editor, not a mechanic, usually I only accept straightforward work--text corrido. Occasionally, I farm out any formatting required. [Most of my clients understand and accept that. If not, well, let them do it.]

I also ask the agency whether it has sufficient working capital to pay for translations within the agreed set time, even if its clients haven't yet paid the bill, and even if its clients don't pay at all. In exchange, the translator commits himself not to compete with the agency on any basis: rate, turnaround, or any other.

To call an agent "a broker" is tantamount to allowing a processing company to withhold payment to its raw materials providers because wholesalers haven't paid up. In the real business world, such a practice leads to bankruptcy, or, at least, to Chapter 11. There is no way a processor can get out of his obligations by calling himself "a broker." In short, no longer am I willing to go to a small claims court to get my fee.
Wilson Velloso

O mestre Velloso (e eu o chamo de mestre porque é tradutor abaeté da Globo desde 1937) deixou bem claro que não gosta do termo "broker", mas não nega que esse termo descreve exatamente o que fazem, a bem da verdade, algumas destas pessoas jurídicas. O artigo visava apenas apresentar alguns fatos da realidade que talvez fossem de interesse para os leitores, e que os estimulasse a colaborar, mediante suas cartas, com o PL Data. Funcionou. Agradeço muito.

Janice Fontanelli informa que o plural de palavra-chave é palavras-chave, e não palavras-chaves. Agradeço a correção. --JHP

Uberlândia, Minas Gerais

We heard about you through LANTRA-L and would like to obtain information about your division of the American Translators Association, especially the Portuguese Division. Since we have just formed a new and independent academic unit within the University, we kindly ask you to send us information about journals, brochures and other materials concerning the division.

We are pleased to announce the creation of a Translation Division in our unit, and we would like to receive information

about the possibility of joining ATA, and getting on your mailing list.

Sincerely, Ivã Carlos Lopes f/Waldenor Barros Moraes Filho,
Dept. For. Lang.
Dito e feito --JHP

Departamento de Letras, PUC-RIO

Rua Marquez de São Vicente, 225
22453-900 - Rio de Janeiro, Brasil Fax 55-21/247-4197

Tenho o grande prazer de oferecer-lhe um exemplar do primeiro número da revista **paLavra**, organizada por professores do Departamento de Letras da PUC-Rio.

Concebida como um novo canal de divulgação da vasta e sólida produção científico-cultural da área de Letras, a revista paLavra veio para amenizar a cortante falta de veículos de publicação nesta área.

Uma vea que a revista está aberta a contribuições externas, solicito-lhe a gentileza de divulgá-la amplamente entre os professores de seu setor.

Cordialmente: Rosa Marina de Brito Meyer, Diretora
Será um prazer. --JHP

WITH ENEMIES LIKE THESE...

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Please be advised that I am forthwith terminating the exchange arrangement existing between TRANSLATION NEWS and the newsletter of the Portuguese Language Division of the American Translators Association.

The reasons for this unilateral action are quite simple: Your article entitled "*Caveat Emptor*", which appeared in the March 1994 issue of the PLD newsletter, and re-printed in the *Gotham Translator* cross well into a territory which --to use current vernacular-- I am not "prepared to handle". Specifically, your equating or comparing a member and/or entity, or by extension entities" with one of history's mass murderers is a bit *too* much even for my strong stomach.

Even if ~~we~~ allowed Mr. Hartmann and/or his company absolutely no benefit of the doubt, and thereby viewed him as a liar, a cheat, a manipulator, a robber, etc., one glaring fact remains: he has not killed a single soul, let alone killed hundreds of thousands of innocent souls.

You could have availed yourself of literally an infinite number of fictitious names; you could have even availed yourself --to get across the satirical point of your piece-- of such names as Millken or Keating or Gould or Morgan, *et al*. Yet you chose, and I daresay with deliberateness and obvious malice aforethought, the name of the late SS *Obersturmbannführer*. One might also view your choice of the name Eichmann as applying not merely to a single translation service company and/or a single official of one such entity, but to all persons who own or manage translation service companies and to the companies themselves.

This type of thinking and this manifestation of ideas are something that I prefer not to listen to or read about. Symbolically speaking, I taking "zapper" in hand and changing the channel.

Yours very truly, Bernard Bierman, Managing Editor.

Abre a roda...

I am extremely flattered that in order to attack my article, Mr. Bierman had to first misstate its content. Nowhere in *Caveat Emptor* is there any mention, derogatory or otherwise, of any individual person. Indeed, the only personal pronoun having an individual referent is the "I" used when I state that I used a *fictitious* name for some *organization*, not person, with no location specified. Mr. Bierman makes clear his dissatisfaction with the fictitious noun chosen. Had I dreamt he would make such a show of righteous indignation over it, I would gladly have chosen a different fictitious name, like, say, *Biermann*. I can only wonder whether his reaction would have been any different.

Mr. Bierman may suspect, surmise, conjecture, speculate, hypothesize and *guess* plenty, but he *knows* nothing about my reasoning because I do not choose to discuss intellectual issues with him. Nor am I able to find a valid inference --one in which conclusions follow logically from true premises-- whether by syllogism, sorite or enthymeme, anywhere in his letter.

With regard to Mr. Bierman's tendency, as self-appointed spokesman for *all* translation bureaus, to interpret every phenomenon he doesn't understand as some sort of conspiracy by wild-eyed Jacobins to unleash a Reign of Terror and march down Fifth Avenue with the severed heads of bureau owners impaled on poles, I'm afraid the strongest reaction I can come up with is very sincere pity.

As for Mr. Bierman's lame attempt to enlist the collaboration of "**we**" in aiding or abetting his low-tech lynching of a Mr. Hartmann (whom I've never met, spoken to or corresponded with) as "a liar, a cheat, a manipulator, a robber, etc.", I must ask: WHAT DO YOU MEAN "**WE**," WHITE MAN?

It was TRANSLATION NEWS, not PL Data, that made all manner of insinuating innuendoes (rather than open, honest declarative statements) deprecating Mr. Hartmann's honesty, sincerity, motives, financial acumen, and business competence in its January, 1994 issue. Likewise, it was TRANSLATION NEWS, not PL Data, Mr. Hartmann described in the April, 1994 issue, as having published "a series of misunderstandings, misrepresentations and plain mistakes...nothing more than innuendo." The gentleman further stated that Mr. Bierman's article omitted much salient information and focussed on his "perceived shortcomings as a businessman". Mr. Hartmann used direct, declarative statements and acquitted himself in a very dignified manner, adding that he did "strongly disagree with much of the content and most of its conclusions" in Bierman's scribblings. One can't help but admire his directness.

Nor has Mr. Hartmann contacted me with any complaints about *Caveat Emptor*, which I'm sure, given his command of English, he must have understood was nothing more than a presentation of dry facts. If a message to bureau owners *must* be read into the article, it would simply be that it pays to always keep in mind the difference between a rooster and a lawyer.

Now if *volkegnosse* Bierman elects to kick his friends when they are down, only to discover, too late, one of them has the guts and ability to kick back, he'll get no sympathy from me. As for comrade Bierman's sudden show of Pollyanna-like

concern, rushing to the aid of his own victims with shrill, hysterical and incoherent ravings about Nazi frogmen or SS stormtroopers, my expectation is that the tactic will prove as successful as it is convincing. --JHP

From CompuServe: BERNARD BIERMAN EXPELLED FROM FLEFO

Klaus Leith 100031,22

Translators CIS:FLEFO Klaus,

I disagree with Jerry's action even after reading BB's message to him (which I find disgusting) for two reasons:

1. That message got onto the public bulletin board only after BB's expulsion. In my opinion, publicly BB stayed within the acceptable norms of conduct, despite his abrasive tone. I don't think somebody should be barred from the forum because of the contents of a private message of his;
2. On a purely practical level, I think Bernie has brought some interesting insight to FLEFO and I, for one, would miss even his ranting here. This forum is a more interesting place with "good old Bernie" around.

Gabe

P.S. In your translation of Bernie's immortal words, you omitted "f---ing." That would be a major error in an ATA accreditation exam <G>.

Translators CIS:FLEFO Robert:

I personally think that FLEFO is not appropriate place neither for a junk like this nor for a person who brings his garbage and dumps it here. There are special local BBSs for this kind of an attitude, there's a whole bunch of people alike on AOL and other online services. Here, on Compuserve, there's the CB simulator with two adult bands over there and special two channels for sexually concerned folks. Whoever wants the safest sex available in the world, can find it there, with people not burdened with any intellectual issues.

Special forums like FLEFO have different orientation: we are here for knowledge, not for nostalgic memories of first or second or more sexual awakenings. For me personally, it's 'and so what??' kind of matter. You reference to freedom of speech doesn't seem fair: it's like granting freedom of ranting with four-letter expressions in malls, theaters and museums.

In the quote you have provided with your rambolic, there is no knowledge, no literature, no arts, nothing. It's just trash and I am personally discomfited meeting it here.

Regards, Michael

Klaus Leith 100031,22 William J. Grimes 73765,1402

Dan Lufkin 73545,221 Translators CIS:FLEFO

Dan, I agree that we do need a bouncer here, and I support Jerry's action.

BB and I have crossed paths (and swords) in the past, in the ATA environment not here on FLEFO, and I am not the only one with unpleasant memories of such encounters. When Translation News appeared, the issues I got to see were encouraging; I agree there is room and even a need for BB's form of journalism, going after the "story behind the story". I hoped that this medium would allow BB to reach an audience that would give him the attention he wants. It was inevitable that he would come to FLEFO; but FLEFO is not his

publication. If I don't want to read Translation News, I won't subscribe to it; if there is a columnist in my daily paper whose style I don't like, I can turn quickly to the next page.

But here, with OZCIS and other front end programs that sweep the forum, you catch everything in the net and have to pay for it.

I have no problem with spirited discussions, but there is a line between vigor and venom, and between spirit and scorn, that I feel BB has crossed too often here. I really regret that he has not taken the hint from others here (and from Jerry, I expect) to watch his language, some of which seems almost calculated to tick someone off and start an argument. I've seen you hold your own with him here; maybe you enjoyed the duel, but I don't come here for that. If BB has another section where he can engage in his kind of argument, and others want to have a knock-down-and-drag-out with him there, fine with me; but it's not what I want to see in Section 11. As a card-carrying member of the ACLU, I support free speech; but I want to have the choice of whether to go and hear the speaker or not.

Bill

Radovan Pletka 74150,1532

Translators CIS:FLEFO_This is the text of a note that I have sent to Mr. Erwin.

Mr. Erwin:

Please find below a quotation from a piece of private mail that I have received from Mr. Bierman.

<<what really got me thrown out of FLEFO was not a PUBLIC pronouncement of my youthful fantasies about mammary exuberance, but rather a PRIVATE message to His SYSOPness (in response to his allegation that my "legs and breasts" comment was sexist) that contained such profundities as "You fucking piece of self-righteous academic shit..." That's what got me thrown out of FLEFO...and it is right there that I have PROFESSOR Erwin by the short-hairs. He will not tell anyone about my PRIVATE language, for if he does, it will be an admission that he threw me out because of PERSONAL reasons.>>...

Translators CIS:FLEFO_The wall is breaking. See part of SYSOP message to me na my response to him. I hope I am not breaking any rules, if I will quote from it:

"Well, Radovan, I don't think I overreacted. So you and I may have to agree to disagree there--but you don't have, and I cannot give you, the full story. So there's plenty of reason for us to remain in disagreement.

I'm willing to let BB back in if and when he assures me he now understands, as do fully 99.9% of our other users, what "civil, decent, genteel, professional, courteous (etc.);" discourse among adults entails.

He needs offer no apologies to anyone, not even me, personally. When things cool down I'll probably send him this message, but with much trepidation. Others who know him far better than I tell me that this type of behavior from him is deeply ingrained, and that at least one professional organization has barred him, specifically, from membership and office-holding.

--Jerry"

Pois é... verdadeira língua de arrieiro. --JHP

TRANSLATION GAFFES

As I write, the last cicadas of the 93 summer serenade the sun, the giant trees of McLean VA and me. The melodious droning of these Cicadidae that M. de La Fontaine made famous and romantic in his fable sounds no resentment for the ancient booboo of an anonymous English translator who called them **grasshoppers**.

The poor fellow evidently: 1. had never seen a cicada in his life (probably never had been in any warm place in France, Spain, or Italy); 2. didn't know much French either, as **grasshopper** is called **sauterelle** in French; 3. or had a miserable dictionary; 4. did not have much sense since in any language **grasshopper** is a pest, anything but gracious. Actually, it's one of its voracious, destructive, *Locustidae* cousins that as plagues have swarmed through Egypt, the Bible, and History. Otherwise, how could he translate

*La cigale, ayant chanté tout l'été, se trouva fort dépourvue
Quand la bise fut venue. Elle alla crier famine,
Chez la fourmi, sa voisine, la priant de lui prêter
Quelque grain pour subsister...*

"Que faisiez vous au temps chaud ?" Dit-elle à cette emprunteuse.

"Nuit et jour à tout venant

Je chantais, ne vous déplaie."

"Vous chantiez? J'en suis fort aise: Eh bien! Dansez maintenant."

the way he did?

I am amazed that Somerset Maugham, who certainly should know better, called one of his short stories "The Grasshopper and the Ant."

Throughout the times, translation errors are legion. Offhand I remember two: Timur the Lame, who became Tamerlane; and the Chinese "Boxer Society" (a mistranslation of the "Right Harmonious Brigade.")

P.S. My office has a new address:

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ANTENASAL, A PALMO

Linguists were surprised at the results of a fairly recent experiment in which showed babies could hear sounds in ALL languages, distinguishing subtle variations adults simply *could not hear*. In 1951, psychologists were surprised when an experiment showed that three out of four college students were willing to *lie through their teeth* about a simple, clearly visible, black-and-white fact of reality in order to "go along with the majority." Today we see a phenomenon related to both of these in the tendency many translators have to feign or experience incomprehension of the truism that government control of the profession involves coercion or the initiation of force. I have had individuals, translators even, recommend government control of translation and in the same breath deny that it constituted coercion or even involved the government at all.

The phenomenon harks back to George Orwell's ominous postwar novel, *1984*, written many years after his participation in the Spanish Civil War, but only a few years after his tour of National Socialist Germany shortly after the surrender. In a forbidden book, Orwell's character, Winston Smith, reads the following lines about a true Party member's psychological approach to inconvenient facts:

*A Party member is required to have not only the right opinions, but the right instincts. Many of the beliefs and attitudes demanded of him are never plainly stated, and could not be stated without laying bare the contradictions inherent in Ingsoc. If he is a person naturally orthodox, (in Newspeak, a **goodthinker**), he will in all circumstances know, without taking thought, what is the true belief or the desirable emotion.*

Regulation or licensing is usually proposed "to protect the unsuspecting public."

Now it so happens the ATA has a voluntary accreditation program that offers interested parties some assurance of translator competence. Some Universities and most translation bureaus do the same. None of these use coercive means in providing that assurance.

It is true that *many* associations of "professionals" have banded together and sold their votes or campaign contributions to mixed-economy statists in exchange for coercive meddling directed against would-be competitors. *Many* people supported National Socialism, Prohibition and slavery, and that didn't make them any less coercive, only more dangerous. Orwell sums up the self-deception beautifully: *The first and simplest stage in the discipline, which can be taught even to young children, is called, in Newspeak, **crimestop**. Crimestop means the faculty of stopping short, as though by instinct, at the threshold of any dangerous thought. It includes the power of not grasping analogies, of failing to perceive logical errors, of misunderstanding the simplest arguments if they are inimical to Ingsoc.*

Naturally none of this makes a dent once an individual has made up his mind that only the political state has *the* solution to a problem, real or imagined. The issue that concerns us here is the blind spot that keeps such an individual from understanding and realizing that he is, in fact, advocating the destruction of freedom. Most people claim a healthy, inborn distrust of arbitrary government coercion and, typically, take pride in their independence and freedom. Few admit to wanting the government to be their parent after they've grown up and moved out, and those that do, resort to self-deception. Rather than defend government control, explaining why it is moral, good and necessary, they pretend it's NOT government control of trade and production they advocate, thereby admitting that deep down they understand it to be immoral, evil and unnecessary. Again, going back to George Orwell:

***Doublethink** means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.(...) The process has to be conscious, or it would not be carried out with sufficient precision, but it also has to be unconscious, or it would bring with it a feeling of falsity and hence of guilt.*

Kind of scary, isn't it? What shall we be, "fair" or free? --JHP

Por aí

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Parece fácil, mas esse internet dá uma tremenda mão de obra, o soft slip tem muita gula para ocupar memória e os micros cá da UT são um verdadeiro antro de vírus e safadeza. Mesmo assim, temos como receber textos do Brasil para publicação no PL Data via internet.

--JHP

Ferramentas: O *Dicionário de Homônimos e Parônimos* de Osmar Barbosa é uma referência bastante interessante para o intérprete. Peça da Lusobrazilian Books em NY. Já o *Petróleo, Dicionário Técnico* da IBP realmente inclui muita coisa que não tem nada a ver, além de verbetes que inspiram pouca confiança. Realmente o melhor *Dicionário de Economia* que já vi é o do Paulo Sandroni. Publicada pela Editora Best Seller. A 7ª edição está nas bancas. O *Tesouro da Fraseologia Brasileira* de Antenor Nascentes continua sendo uma bíblia para quem trabalha muito com expressões idiomáticas, mas agora tem concorrente; *Etimologias e Expressões Pitorescas* de Marcus Cláudio Acquaviva, da Ícone Editora, está nas bancas a preço de revista.

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