

mittee for evaluation and recommendation to the association's Board of Directors.

Although the alternate routes to Active and Corresponding membership do not confer accreditation, they do offer credible options for Associate members to have fuller participation in Association affairs.

These options have special significance for ATA Chapters facing a limited pool of Active members from which to recruit candidates for leadership positions. That is also true for ATA Divisions wishing to expand the pool of both Active and Corresponding members. In addition to accreditation, the alternate routes offer a range of opportunities to expand the base of Active and Corresponding membership and in turn increase participation in Association affairs at both local and national levels. ★

*Harvie Jordan, ABC, [hjc@texas.net](mailto:hjc@texas.net) was Chair of the Active Membership Review Committee for 2000–2001. Current Chair is Lee Wright [lv1341204@aol.com](mailto:lv1341204@aol.com).*

## Literary contest announced

A TRANSLATION COMPETITION will be sponsored for 2002 once again by the British Comparative Literature Association and the British Centre for Literary Translation (University of East Anglia). Prizes will be awarded for best unpublished literary translations from any language into English, including poetry, prose, or drama from any period; entries may be up to 25 pages long.

First prize: £350; second prize: £200; third prize: £100; other entries may receive commendations. Winning entries will be published in the annual journal *Comparative Criticism* (Cambridge University Press). Entry fee is five pounds sterling. Prize-winners will be announced in July 2002.

For further details see the BCLA website, [www.bcla.org](http://www.bcla.org). ★

## Stupid interpreter tricks

by J. Henry Phillips  
*www.BrazilianTranslated.com*

FEELING LEFT OUT? Think translators have all the fun because of their graceful typing skills? Well cheer up. Technology has now advanced to a point where even interpreters can translate into English.

Depending on computer speed you can use Dragon NaturallySpeaking Preferred Version 4 or DNS Version 5. You must have 128 MB of RAM and some sort of sound card into which a headset with a microphone can be plugged.

It's true you have to read to the software for some 20 minutes to teach it to recognize your vocal peculiarities. Read naturally (without naming punctuation marks) and as fast as you can for best results. When you begin dictating, you'll have to tell the machine where to insert commas, periods, and other punctuation.

You'll quickly find the program can easily misinterpret what you say. Correction features are provided, and it is helpful to simply delete from the vocabulary obscure and confusing proper nouns and words which include apostrophes in their endings.

The program can play your own voice back to you, and it includes a British robot voice which reads texts in UK English. This may have something to do with the way it makes fun of a Texas drawl.

Despite such a handicap, you can reasonably expect a test-measured typing speed of 75 words per minute after one day, much faster once you learn the ropes.

You can expect to pay less than \$100 for the software. As a bonus, you'll acquire considerable skill at reinstalling your entire operating system more often than ever before. Dragon software is unstable—much like powerful game programs—and resents

sharing RAM. The huge speech files and their handlers are easily corrupted for no apparent reason, but are usually quickly repaired with the original installation CD. The repairs will not destroy your speech files nor overwrite your modified vocabulary list.

There are no dongles to install, but for those who insist on paying an extra \$300 or \$400, specialized Professional versions can be had. DNS works in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint without ruining the original file formats.

If you are accustomed to translating 3000 words in an average day, you will be delighted to discover that you can dictate at twice that rate without developing tense shoulder pains. Now, 53 years after Winston Smith whispered into his speakwrite in George Orwell's novel *1984*, interpreters and translators may find that it makes perfect economic sense to dedicate a fast computer and operating system to use as a dictation machine. ★

