

informATIOn

October 2009

Number 3

Update on Community Interpretation

By Nancy McInnis, C. Tran., President

The Board has received several applications from ATIO members who are interested in volunteering their time to help amend the ATIO Act to include the reserved title of Certified Community Interpreter. The applications have been reviewed

and the Board is narrowing down its choices. Once a final decision has been made, those applicants who have been selected will be notified. Further details will follow as they become available. Thank you to everyone who applied.

CERTIFIED THROUGH CTTIC TRANSLATION EXAMINATION

English-French
 Fredericks, Caroline
 Krähenbühl, Anne
 Landry, Louise
 Mery, Anne
 Parent, Elise
 Proulx, José Marianne
 Turpin, Danielle

French-English
 Molinari, Laura
 Morin, André
 Pritchard, Joanne
 Rangaratnam, Sarah
 Secord, Erin
 Spier, Susan

French-Russian
 Maslov, Igor

Chinese-English
 Kan, Selina
 Yang, Jianhua (Gerald)

Farsi-English
 Moinzadeh, Mariam

Romanian-English
 Musceleanu, Dorina

Spanish-English
 Molinari, Laura

English-Chinese
 Xie, Ying

English-Polish
 Batorowicz-Ptak, Anna

English-Romanian
 Musceleanu, Dorina

English-Russian
 Chitenco, Ina

English-Spanish
 Elizondo, Angelica
 Saldias, Claudia

CERTIFIED THROUGH CTTIC COURT INTERPRETING EXAMINATION

Spanish/English
 Kenigson Kristy, Judith

CERTIFIED ON DOSSIER IN TRANSLATION

Slovak-English
 Brejova, Eva

English-Russian
 Kolodizner, Marina

CERTIFIED ON DOSSIER IN COURT INTERPRETING

English/Arabic
 Nosseir, Widad

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The Tools of the Trade: Resources for Language Professionals

By Alana Hardy, C. Tran.

Dictionaries are a language professional's best friend. They can be used to check spelling and find definitions, and the entries provide information on pronunciation, usage, parts of speech and regional differences. However, dictionaries can be much more than that! We are all familiar with the requisite bilingual dictionary, but are you aware of just how many other kinds of dictionaries there are out there?! There are many useful tools available—both print and online—and having the right one will help you to do your job better.

As a language professional, you are probably used to working with bilingual dictionaries. These can range in comprehensiveness from a pocket guide that provides only an equivalent and the word's gender, as applicable, to a multi-volume version that provides greater detail, including full-sentence examples showing how the word is used and idiomatic expressions. However, there is also a wide range of specialized bilingual and multilingual dictionaries, covering a variety of topics. Are you working in a specialized field, such as medicine or insurance? Then there's a dictionary for you! In addition, there are multilingual visual dictionaries that provide a visual representation of a broad range of things, broken down into parts and labelled. They can be particularly useful if you find that pictures help you better understand what you're working on.

Unilingual dictionaries also range in comprehensiveness, from pocket-sized to unabridged. Think of a desk dictionary and the 20-volume unabridged print version of *The Oxford English Dictionary*. Clearly the OED would contain much more detail. Unilingual dictionaries define words in one language, but some of them take a different approach in doing so. The *Collins Cobuild Dictionary for Learners of English* provides descriptive definitions, which can often be easier to understand. Entries also provide clear, full-sentence examples to show the various ways in which the word is used. *The Canadian Oxford Dictionary* is a great resource for regionalisms and Canadianisms. Did you know that a “bunny hug” is a regionalism from Saskatchewan that means the same as a hooded sweatshirt? Did you know that “double double” and “mat leave” are distinctly Canadian and have been added to the most recent edition? It's nice to know that we have a dictionary that represents the uniqueness of Canadian English.

Usage guides are valuable tools that provide guidance in how to use the language. Have you ever wondered when to use “myself, me or I”? Or if you should use “continual” or “continuous”? Have you agonized over splitting an infinitive? Perhaps not, but you would use a usage guide to find the answers. Usage guides are a complement to unilingual dictionaries. They show you how to use the language properly, provide grammatical information and distinguish between commonly confused words. Two prime examples of usage guides are *The Guide to Canadian English Usage*—the companion to *The Canadian Oxford Dictionary*—and *The New Fowler's Modern English Usage*.

Dictionaries such as *The BBI Dictionary of English Word Combinations* and the *Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs* help you write idiomatically. These dictionaries provide common collocations. In most cases they provide a definition and examples, as well as synonyms.

While dictionaries help you define a word, thesauri help you find the *right* word. You would use a thesaurus when you have an idea, but you don't know or can't remember the word or phrase that expresses it best, or when you want a more accurate or effective way of saying what you mean. They contain synonyms and antonyms. One problem with thesauri, though, is that the words listed in each entry may not be an exact synonym, so you must be careful. Thesauri should be used in conjunction with a dictionary so that you can look up unfamiliar words and avoid embarrassing malapropisms and inappropriate collocations. *Choose the Right Word* is a fantastic thesaurus that provides an illustrative description of the different meanings of synonyms. *The Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus* is another great English resource. It groups words by various meanings of the word, with a word in a phrase to indicate its meaning, ending with an antonym. It also provides notes on a particular word or usage. Other neat features are word spectrums, which are lists of words on a spectrum between opposites, such as beautiful to ugly, and word banks, which are tables of words organized by category, such as hairstyles. That word bank includes beehive, bowl cut, buzz cut, mullet, pageboy and updo.

Continued on next page

Online dictionaries are handy, and there are many to choose from. Please see the ATIO website for a list of some good online resources.

How do you make sure you buy or use the right dictionary? It's important to evaluate several things: the dictionary's scope, authority, accuracy and currency. The dictionary's preface or introduction will state its scope. What does the dictionary include? Is there a pronunciation guide? Do the entries reflect current usage? Does the dictionary include additional lists of geographical and proper names, tables, charts, a bibliography and illustrations?

The authority and reputation of the publisher are key factors in judging a dictionary's quality. Dictionaries are expensive to compile and, as a result, there are a limited number of reputable publishers. The most authoritative dictionary publishers in North America include Gage Educational Publishing, Harcourt Brace, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Merriam-Webster, Oxford University Press, Random House and World Book.

When looking at accuracy, you should consider spelling and definition. Does the spelling reflect Canadian usage? Have words been modernized (e.g. "airplane" instead of "aeroplane")? Does it reflect trends in usage and evolution in the language (e.g. "website," not "Web site," and "online," instead of "on-line")? The definitions for each entry should be clear and unambiguous, with sufficient examples to help define the word in context.

Language is constantly changing, so having a current dictionary is important. Words that were once considered slang can become standard, and words can take on new meanings or even a different part of speech (e.g. it is now quite acceptable to use "impact" as a verb). Make sure that the dictionary you are considering is up-to-date.

Someone asked me recently if dictionaries expire, and in a way they do. Language is constantly evolving, and dictionaries are updated to reflect changes in the language and how words are used. Having a current, authoritative dictionary is important for a language professional. Being properly equipped will make your job easier and, with any luck, more enjoyable!

**This article is based on a presentation given to my classmates in the Library and Information Science program at the University of Western Ontario. A special thank you to my co-presenters Chau Ha, Sandra Herber and Amena Rajwani, and to Sybil Brake for her input and expertise!*

InformATIO

Published by:

The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario

1202-1 Nicholas Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

Tel: (613) 241-2846 / 1-800-234-5030

Fax: (613) 241-4098

E-mail: InformATIO@atio.on.ca

Website: www.atio.on.ca

Circulation: 1400

Printer: Plantagenet Printing

Graphic Designer: More In Typo

Editorial Team: Catherine Bertholet, Alana Hardy, Nancy McInnis, Michel Trahan

Editorial policy:

The Editorial Committee of *InformATIO* reserves the right not to publish, or to edit with the author's consent, any article submitted or commissioned for publication. Any opinions expressed (except in articles signed in an official capacity) are those of the authors and are not endorsed by the Association.

Special thanks to:

Michèle Bradbury, Lisa Carter, Elisa Paoletti, Claude Forand, Paul Gagné, Yuri Geifman, Alana Hardy, Louis-Claude Harvey (Translation Bureau), Christine Keenan, Carol-lee Whipple, Nancy McInnis, Nedelka Marin-Martinez, Daniel Pokorn, Alexandra Scott, Louise Voyer, Silvia Yáñez.

Member News

Lisa Carter is pleased to announce the release of her most recent translation, *The Book of Destiny: Unlocking the Secrets of the Mayans and the Prophecy of 2012* (HarperCollins, 2009). This work of non-fiction by the Mayan Elder and Shaman Carlos Barrios reveals aspects of their culture, history, beliefs, and prophecies for the very first time. It also includes the twenty Mayan birth signs so that readers can learn to live in harmony with their destiny, and thus contribute more to the world. You can learn more about the book and the translation process at Lisa's website, www.intralingo.com.

More Than a Tool for Translators: TERMIUM Plus®

This user-friendly, four-in-one precision tool helps you find the exact term, title, abbreviation or phrase you're looking for in mere seconds. You can use **TERMIUM Plus®** as:

- a bilingual dictionary to find the precise English or French equivalent for technical terms, association names and official titles of organizations, acts and programs;
- a unilingual dictionary to check the meaning of highly specialized terms not found in most standard dictionaries;
- a source to help you stay on top of emerging English and French terminology in nearly every field of human endeavour;
- a writing tool to obtain guidance on questions of usage and style.

Now you can have one of the most comprehensive French-English/English-French data banks at your fingertips. With this powerhouse of linguistic data, you no longer have to thumb through many costly dictionaries and reference books.

TERMIUM Plus® – soon available free of charge!

As announced in the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013: Acting for the Future*, the government of Canada will give all Canadians access, free of charge, to the **Language Portal of Canada (www.ourlanguages.gc.ca)**. A single website, the portal will bring together a range of quality language tools (including **TERMIUM Plus®**) developed both by federal institutions and other organizations across the country.

TransSearch: A Useful Tool for Translators and Others

By Alexandra Scott, C. Tran.

These days translators have at their very fingertips a wide range of electronic tools. These include software applications that manipulate text, such as word processing and translation memory programs, and of course we now have access to the Internet with its colossal amount of information.

The major drawback in conducting Internet searches for facts and terminology is identifying trustworthy sources of these types of information. For those of us that translate texts originating with the federal government, we need only limit our Google searches to sites whose top-level domain contains "gc.ca." But that still means a lot of mousing around to arrive at the right web page.

One "made in Canada" solution is a tool called TransSearch, developed by Ottawa-based Terminotix Inc. It allows you to input a search query in either English or French and produces sentence pairs containing your search term pulled from sources such as the debates of the Canadian House of Commons and Senate as published in the Hansard, and decisions issued by the Supreme Court, the Federal Court, the Tax Court, and the Federal Court of Appeal. As well, searches may be conducted of a Spanish-English document collection containing international labour standard conventions, recommendations and decisions from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

How does this tool actually work? If, for example, you are translating a document dealing with the federal government's stimulus package and you come across the phrase "levée de la première pelletée de terre", you

know it relates to shovels in the ground but you would like some confirmation. Inserting this term into the query box and selecting "Hansard de la chambre des communes" as the document collection to be searched yields six sentence pairs. Your search term is displayed in bold in the source text column of the resulting sentence pairs. More complex queries can be crafted by using an ellipsis: "levée ... pelletée de terre". In this case nine sentence pairs are found. A restricted version of the ellipsis operator ".." is also available, in which the span between the two expressions is limited to 25 characters.

Since the main sources are authoritative Canadian institutions, you can be reasonably sure that the translation displayed is reliable. If your translator's intuition tells you that further confirmation of a term is required, you can enter the term in Google, limiting it to the relevant government website. For example, if your document originated with Natural Resources Canada, you can limit your search to the top-level domain nrcan.gc.ca.

TransSearch is also very useful for checking expressions and turns of phrase, regardless of the source of the information.

Access to TransSearch is through a paid subscription, which costs \$129.95 per year. A free, 5-day trial period is available upon registration. I have found that this cost is well worth it, as it saves me a lot of time conducting research, enabling me to rely on specific sources for both terminology and language use. I highly recommend TransSearch to any colleague.

Spanish Reference Tools: Are You Ready For Them?

By Silvia Yáñez, C. Tran.

Nowadays, we can find a large array of new, more complete and specialized Spanish-language reference tools.

The hallmark of a good translator is the translator's ability to select the reference tools that are most convenient for her/him.

The question though that I would have to ask myself would be: Am I ready to choose these tools properly?

As I have always said, as translators “we are the engineers of letters,” and it is of paramount importance to become as knowledgeable as we can in order to build up our translation abilities. No tool could possibly take our place.

Taking this premise as our starting point, we should be able to determine which tools would be more suitable for us. This depends mainly on the analysis that we do while translating, the kind of work we need to deliver, and the support that some of our competencies require.

Over the years, we come to realize that we do not need to look up terms in the dictionary as often, but still, since we are not translation machines, over time we develop a strategy to conduct our research.

These are a few of the Spanish reference tools, either books or online tools, which I can suggest to you based on my modest experience in translation.

The *Diccionario de dificultades del inglés*, written by Alfonso Torrents dels Prats, has become the Bible in my translation activities. The analysis done by the author makes us realize to what extent we repeat the same mistakes time and again. This is a selection of comparative translations with a sound explanation of the correct terms to be used.

Although only in English, *The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English*, published by John Benjamins Publishing Company, is second in importance. It helps us better understand the meaning of a word in context when it is presented in collocations.

Since technology is so prevalent today, most of the next references are online tools. I have divided them into four main groups:

First are the conventional unilingual or bilingual dictionaries like DRAE, the *Diccionario de la lengua española*, from the Real Academia Española (<http://www.rae.es/rae.html>), *Merriam-Webster Online* dictionary (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>), “El atril del traductor” by the Instituto Cervantes (http://cvc.cervantes.es/aula/el_atril/), Word Reference (<http://www.wordreference.com/>) and “Ideas Afines” (<http://www.ideasafines.com.ar/>). The first four online dictionaries give an overview of the meaning of the word. The Instituto Cervantes website and Word Reference have also synonyms and forums. The last reference helps you to go from an idea to the word you are looking for.

Second are the specialized online dictionaries: IATE, (<http://iate.europa.eu>). This is one of the largest and more complete dictionaries with specialized terms in several languages including Spanish. There are other online dictionaries that you could use depending on the field you work in.

Third are the dictionaries that are more linguistically oriented, like “Corpus del Español” (<http://www.corpusdelespanol.org/>), Spanish FrameNet (<http://gemini.uab.es:9080/SFNsite>), COES-Spanish Language Tools (<http://www.datsi.fi.upm.es/~coes/coes.html>) and “Grupo de Estructuras de Datos y Lingüística Computacional” (<http://www.gedlc.ulpgc.es/>). This is the engineering part of our work as translators that I like the most—we review the structures from different points of view. The semantic, syntactical and morphological analyses are our ultimate goal.

Fourth, we have specific dictionaries such as one for the Spanish-language slang (<http://www.jergasdehablahispana.org/>), another for sports in “Idioma y Deporte” (<http://www.idiomaydeporte.com/>) and some more in the Academia Argentina de Letras website (<http://www.aal.universia.com.ar/nuevoAAL/index.php>). The site provides the slang and colloquialisms of different Spanish countries, as well as the specific use of Spanish in a given country.

Finally, a well-read translator is worth his or her weight in gold. A review of well-written Spanish sites would be recommended such as “El Mundo” (<http://www.elmundo.es/>), Fundéu (<http://www.fundeu.es/>), “Unidad en la Diversidad” (<http://www.unidadenladiversidad.com/>), Portal del Hispanismo (<http://www.hispanismo.cervantes.es/>) and Fundación Litterae (<http://www.fundlitterae.org.ar/>), among others.

Russian Tools

By Yuri Geifman, Vice-President, C. Tran., C. Crt. Int.

For Russian translation, I use Multitran and Lingvo 12. I have both installed on my system, but there's also a free online version of Multitran available at <http://www.multitran.ru> and, of course, online search engines to verify usage—Google and Yandex are my two personal favourites. A word of caution: Multitran allows practically unrestricted access to the dictionary database, so people add and remove things all the time, sometimes making valuable contributions and sometimes not so valuable... For questions about Russian grammar, spelling, punctuation, usage, and so on, <http://www.gramota.ru> and of course <http://www.glossary.ru/> are invaluable tools, as you can find specialized terms, and examples of new usage are added all the time. For Russian abbreviations there's <http://www.sokr.ru>, which is invaluable with its nearly 110,000 entries (and counting), and for any difficult questions, there's <http://www.proz.com>, of course, where colleagues are always happy to assist (some out of a genuine wish to help, some because they want to promote themselves by accumulating 'kudoz'...). Ultimately, it is always your experience and judgment that will help you make this a useful tool and avoid the pitfalls.

Happy translating!

Critical Illness Insurance: So You'll Have Fewer Financial Worries

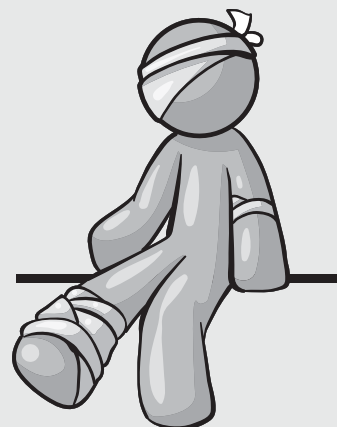
Few of us want to contemplate the reality of being told we have a serious illness. Even fewer of us have likely given any thought to how we'd cope financially, if faced with such a diagnosis.

During your recovery, you may end up having to pay for healthcare services, special drugs and supplements, and homecare expenses not covered by your government health insurance plan or your group plan. You might even have to travel to get the medical attention you need. Add all of this to your regular household bills, and the financial consequences of surviving a serious illness could add up very quickly.

With the simple, accessible and affordable protection offered by **critical illness insurance**, you'll have the security of knowing that as early as 30 days following a diagnosis of cancer, heart attack or stroke, or coronary bypass or aortic surgery, you'll qualify to receive a one-time, tax-free lump sum benefit of up to \$25,000—paid directly to you, to spend however you wish.

You are eligible to apply for this valuable coverage if you are between the ages of 18 and 60 and a Canadian resident. Best of all, you don't have to complete a medical questionnaire; all that's needed is your declaration of your good health. Once covered, you

You'll qualify to receive a one-time, tax-free lump sum benefit of up to \$25,000—paid directly to you.



can keep your critical illness policy up to age 75, regardless of any changes in your health or occupation. Even if your health declines, your coverage cannot be cancelled, as long as you pay your premiums. Of course, you can choose to cancel this protection at any time.

We would like you to consider making **critical illness** part of your overall financial planning strategy. It could be the piece that helps you minimize your financial worries.

Please take a moment to contact us:

atioinsurance@gmail.com
Ms. Carol-lee Whipple or Mrs. Louise Voyer
1-888-792-3385 (ext.141) • 613-728-6956
Advisors serving members of ATIO

Calendar of Events

✓ OCTOBER 2009

October 21-23, 2009: International Colloquium of Translation of the Association of Translation of Turkey
Istanbul, Turkey

Information: <http://www.fit-ift.org/download/en/colloquium-200910.pdf>

October 22-24, 2009: 3rd International Media for All Conference, "Quality Made to Measure"

Antwerp, Belgium

Information: <http://www.mediaforall.eu/prog.html>

October 28-30, 2009: Socio-Cultural Approaches to Translation: Indian and European Perspectives

Hyderabad, India

Information: http://members.fit-ift.org/sites/members.fit-ift.org/files/Socio-Cultural_Approaches_to_Translation.pdf

October 28-31, 2009: 50th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association

New York City

Information: <https://www.atanet.org/conf/2009/>

October 29-31, 2009: 5th Mediterranean Editors and Translators (MET) meeting: Translation, editing, writing: broadening the scope and setting limits

Barcelona, Spain

Information: http://www.metmeetings.org/index.php?page=metm09_call

October 30-31, 2009: Korean Association of Translation Studies (KATS) International Conference

Seoul, Korea

Information: http://www.kats.or.kr/ENG/html/eng_sub03.asp

✓ NOVEMBER 2009

November 12-14, 2009: Colloque international "Aspects linguistiques et communicatifs de la mise en evidence"

Geneva, Switzerland

Information: <http://members.fit-ift.org/sites/members.fit-ift.org/files/Saillance.pdf>

November 13-14, 2009: The World in Crisis – And the Language Industry?

Geneva, Switzerland

Information: <http://www.ialb-astti.org/en/index.html>

November 20-21, 2009: Colloque international de l'ISIT : les pratiques de l'interprétation et l'oralité dans la communication interculturelle

Paris, France

Information: <http://www.isit-paris.fr/colloques.htm>