

Coming Out of the Shadow: Review of Madeline G. Levine's Susana Greiss Lecture

Reviewed by Christine Pawlowski



Each year at the American Translators Association Annual Conference, the Susana Greiss lecture brings an eminent guest lecturer to speak upon some aspect of translation/interpretation related to the Slavic languages. ATA's Polonists owe a debt of gratitude to Nora Favorov, who initially reached out to Madeline Levine, the 2016 speaker. Dr. Levine's address, "In the Shadow of Russian: Forty Years of Translating Polish Literature," proved a seminal event: Dr. Levine became the first speaker in the nineteen-year history of the Greiss lecture to address a Polish subject.

Graduates of Slavic Studies programs in the United States have often encountered the tendency to categorize the various Slavic literatures as "major" or "minor," with Russian at the top. In 1963, Dr. Levine, a Russian specialist at Harvard, chose to study Polish to fulfill her secondary literature requirement. It turned out to be a serendipitous decision; the need for scholarly attention to and good literary translation of Polish was extreme. In fact, an American colleague of Dr. Levine's once greeted her with the question, "Is there really such a thing as Polish literature?" Learning "at breakneck speed" to read Polish, Dr. Levine began a lifelong career translating this "minor" literature.

Dr. Levine's early work was made more difficult by the lack of critical resources available. (She singled out Kridl's "stupefyingly dull," blue-covered, pictureless survey.) This situation was radically transformed by the publication of Miłosz's 1969 work, *The History of Polish Literature*, which helped to provide a cultural and historical context for Polish literature in a "readable, even exciting" way. As I pulled out my 40-year-old copy of this book, heavily annotated in the early '70s, I found myself in wholehearted agreement. Miłosz's work, with its determination to "avoid... scholarly dryness" and "preserve... a trace of a smile" must have created something of a Lazarus experience when it first appeared—Polish literature was alive after all.

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Who was Susana Greiss? If you are curious, click on the following link for a concise autobiography, as well as sage advice to those of us who are still plowing the field:
www.translationjournal.net/journal/12prof.htm

Coming Out of the Shadow

Continued from page 1

Among other groundbreaking efforts for Polish literature in English, Dr. Levine explored the “labors of love” undertaken by Celina Wieniewska and Barbara Vedder. These pioneering women translated the works of Bruno Schulz and Tadeusz Borowski, two unknown writers whose influence now reaches worldwide. Dr. Levine has produced new translations of these works, and her translation of Bruno Schulz’s prose fiction is soon to be published by Northwestern University Press.

A primary focus of Dr. Levine’s work has been Jewish-themed literature in the Polish language. In translating works about the Holocaust and in her work as a university professor, she has delved into the question: “How is it possible that such horror can be captured and transformed into works of artistic beauty?” She has also taken on another wartime subject: her re-translation of Białoszewski’s *Memoir of the Warsaw Uprising* was released by the New York Review of Books in their Classics series.

Dr. Levine has had her share of good fortune: at a very young age, she obtained her first position as Assistant Professor at the City University of New York “sight unseen” after a phone interview. She enjoyed the stability of her position in the University of North Carolina’s Slavic Languages and Literatures Department (now Germanic & Slavic Languages and Literatures). However, she has also experienced the vicissitudes of the publishing industry and, as a result, seems to have developed the patience of a saint! After 40 years of sharing an unknown literary culture with readers and students, Dr. Levine leaves her audience with the firm conviction that she has only just begun. When I asked her at our communal lunch: “So what still needs to be translated?” She responded: “Everything!”

I encourage you to read excerpts from Dr. Levine’s talk on the next page to learn more about the fascinating and, at times, frustrating professional journey of a “student-teacher-scholar-translator.”

Christine Pawlowski is a freelance Polish and Russian translator with an M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Indiana University, “Tsvetograd.” She is retired from teaching elementary music and enjoys being called “Busia” by her 10 grandchildren. She is ATA certified (Polish-English). She may be reached at pawlow@verizon.net

Coming out of the Shadow

Some direct quotations from Madeline Levine's Lecture Notes:

- One of the Russian literature professors at Harvard had unwittingly clinched the case for my appointment when he wrote an unsolicited letter to the search committee denigrating my candidacy on the grounds that I had shown very poor judgment and taste by choosing to write a dissertation on a Polish topic although I had passed my qualifying exams and should have become a Russian specialist. That was exactly the profile the committee was looking for and—bingo!—I was offered the job.
- The man was a highly regarded comparatist and a fine scholar, but like so many specialists in British, American, and West European literatures, although having no knowledge of Russian, he knew for a certainty that Russian literature is great, having read its prose masterpieces in translation, but he didn't have the foggiest notion that great literary cultures existed elsewhere in Europe's eastern regions.
- I would not discount, either, the influence—even on intellectuals—of the Polish jokes that were prevalent in American popular culture prior to the election of Pope John Paul II in late 1978 and before the great respect for Poland generated during the Solidarity era of the 1980s.
- *Pan Tadeusz*, which is to Polish culture what Pushkin's *Eugenie Onegin* is to Russian, could be read only in an uninspiring 1917 prose translation which transmitted the exciting plot but not a whit of the poetry. A translation that gives a good deal of the flavor of the original wasn't available until 1986.
- I met with him weekly and struggled through the sample readings he'd assign. Of course, I agreed; I felt honored. Weintraub, whether he was speaking in English or in Polish, tended to swallow the final words of his sentences. So when he gave me my first assignment, to read a ten-page excerpt from the 16th-century writer Mikołaj Rej—the first Polish author to write exclusively in Polish, not also or only in Latin and so considered the father of literary Polish—I didn't hear which pages he'd assigned. Too embarrassed (or maybe too stupid) to ask that he repeat the assignment, I spent an entire sleep-deprived week ignoring my other courses and reading the several hundred pages of Rej's entire *Żywot człowieka poczciwego* (*The Life of an Honest Man*). And so, although I didn't realize it then, I was launched on my future career as a Polonist and translator.
- He and I often talked about how to make others understand that translators are not mechanical word-clerks and how deeply one must engage with a text and its historical context and cultural setting if one is to translate it well.
- One of the reasons I'd started translating was my discomfort as a teacher at repeatedly having to tell my undergraduate students that such and such a literary work is really important, here's the plot outline, and by the way, you'll just have to trust me when I tell you that it's interesting, even splendid, but you'll never be able to discover that for yourself unless you first learn Polish, by which time you'll have graduated.
- A further impediment was pointed out to me later by a press director I knew: people don't like to read or ask for books if they can't pronounce the author's name, and for the same reason, bookstore clerks are unlikely to promote such books. The internet has eliminated that barrier, at least; one can buy a book online without risking being embarrassed by incorrect pronunciation.
- A much happier outcome is that my translation of Bruno Schulz's prose fiction will be published next year by Northwestern University Press.
- But always, whether I selected the book myself or was approached by a publisher, I have worked only on texts that I found intriguing or that I felt ought to be made available in English for teaching purposes and/or for the pleasure of general readers.
- Most of my authors were Poles of Jewish descent whose books arose from their experiences during, and in the wake of, the Holocaust. One persistent theme in my published research has been reflections in literature of the vexed relationship between Poles of Catholic, and Poles of Jewish, descent. That theme intersects with a question that was central to my course on literary representations of the Soviet Gulag and the Holocaust: How is it possible that such horror can be captured and transformed into works of artistic beauty?
- Since, he informed me, his words could only enter into English from my heart through my right arm and hand, via a pen onto paper, he was withdrawing permission to publish.
- I feel that I've lived a charmed life. From my uninformed choice of my Polish minor, to my fairy-tale offer of an academic position sight unseen in a Comparative Literature program where (by the way) I had the chance to learn from Gregory Rabassa the great translator of Latin American writers, as I assisted him in his translation workshop by reading the work of students who were translating from Russian, to my long career at the University of North Carolina in a Slavic department of cultural outsiders (as we thought of ourselves) whose members celebrated translation and later supported my introduction of a graduate course in literary translation and practice, I have been very blessed indeed.

The List

The Reemergence of the Central and East European Literary Translation Project

Nora Seligman Favorov

For me, ATA57 was one of the most inspiring and enjoyable ATA Annual Conferences ever. First, there was San Francisco and our hotel's proximity to so much captivating architecture, great restaurants, and stunning views. Second, of course, was the annual opportunity to "talk shop" for four days nonstop with fellow word wonks. Third, the conference featured an exceptionally delectable smorgasbord of talks focused on my particular interests, many of them reviewed in these pages.

Best of all, however, was having my former graduate school professor, Madeline Levine, come to give the Annual Susana Greiss Lecture (see p. 1 for a review).

One part of the talk caught the particular attention of several audience members. Dr. Levine related the sad story of "The List."

Back in the early 1980s, she and her close graduate school friend (and 2002 Greiss Lecturer), the late Michael Henry Heim, would frequently lament the lack of translations of the "minor" literatures of Eastern Europe, which they were encouraging their students to explore. As she told the audience:

Both of us, like teachers of other under-represented literatures, were distressed by what I like to call the problem of the missing books. One of the reasons I'd started translating was my discomfort as a teacher at repeatedly having to tell my undergraduate students that such and such a literary work is really important, here's the plot outline, and by the way, you'll just have to trust me when I tell you that it's interesting, even splendid, but you'll never be able to discover that for yourself unless you first learn Polish, by which time you'll have graduated. Mike experienced the same frustration when he taught Czech literature...

The two scholars decided to try to do something about this problem. With funding from the American Council of Learned Societies and UCLA's Russian and East European Center, they put together something called the "Central and East European Literary Translation Project." Scholars of five non-Russian Eastern European literatures were recruited to assess the state of translation in their respective languages and prepare lists of major canonical works published before 1945 that deserved to be translated or

retranslated into English (translations of postwar works were easier to find). By late 1989, the fruits of their labor—a list of pre-1945 works in Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, and Serbo-Croatian that needed to be translated—was distributed to "every English-language publisher, both academic and commercial, of fiction, literary criticism, and cultural history in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, and Australia."

Almost nothing came of this effort: Levine and Heim knew for certain of only one translation accepted for publication on the strength of its inclusion in the list.

The ears of more than one literary translator working out of these "minor" languages perked up, and our speaker was later asked to share the list. She was not even sure she still had it, but if she did, it would be back in her North Carolina home, to which she would not be returning for a few months, since she and her husband were currently living in Montana.

We waited. Finally, in March, Levine returned to North Carolina, pulled a desk drawer out farther than it had been pulled in years—and there it was.

We have since digitized it and have volunteers familiar with Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, and Hungarian checking the list for scanning glitches and updating it with information about translations in and out of print that appeared after 1989. **We would like to ask for volunteers to do this for Czech, Polish, and Romanian.** If you would be willing to help or know someone who would, please contact me (norafavorov@gmail.com). Once the update is complete we will post the list on the SLD website and promote its existence within ATA's Literary Division and ALTA.

A GREAT WAY TO SHOWCASE YOUR TRANSLATION SKILLS

**DO YOU KNOW OF AN ARTICLE
(PUBLISHED OR UNPUBLISHED)
THAT WOULD BE IDEAL FOR SLAVFILE
IF ONLY IT WERE WRITTEN IN ENGLISH?**

Consider translating it for us: both you and the author will get full and conspicuous credit. (Reprint permission required for the original of course.)

THE ADMINISTRATORS' COLUMN

Ekaterina Howard
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I would like to start the column by thanking all of the SLD members who submitted a proposal to present at the upcoming ATA Conference! Good luck to everyone! For my part, having to review the proposals was a very difficult task that made me wish there were at least twice as many slots available for SLD sessions.

Some details of how the review process works: the ultimate decision on which proposals are accepted is made by the Conference Organizer. However, proposals are first reviewed independently by the appropriate Division Administrator and Assistant Administrator. This year, in addition to the proposals submitted, we received information about how frequently speakers have presented in the past and the audience feedback they received. ATA provides a form in which we are asked to evaluate the ability of the presenter(s) if we are familiar with them, confirm that we agree with the author's specification of the topic and level appropriate for the proposed presentation, evaluate it overall, suggest an acceptance/waitlist/rejection decision and explain the justification for this decision. This year our division's administrators were asked to recommend no more than six hours worth of proposals for acceptance and two additional hours for a waitlist.

This year 15 proposals were submitted to the Slavic Languages Division. The guideline is that, in order to submit in a language-specific topic, proposers had to assert that understanding of the particular language (or, in our case, one of the languages) being discussed was essential for audience members. Otherwise, presenters were told to submit in the appropriate subject matter based topic. Given that new rules call for the Greiss lecturer to present two sessions in our Division, evaluators had to name four hours of proposals in all Slavic languages for acceptance and two others for the waiting list. The Conference Organizer may, however, decide to select more or fewer of these proposals.

The factors that I took into account during review:

- "Priority" initiatives – this year, translation slams (there were 2 proposals for slams: Russian to English, recommended for acceptance, and English to Russian, co-submitted by Maria Guzenko and myself, recommended for wait-listing).
- Ensuring that a variety of Slavic languages is represented.
- Ensuring that new speakers get a chance to present.
- Ensuring a balance between sessions on translation and on interpreting.
- Ensuring that there is a balance between session topics (literary/law/media, etc.).
- Ensuring that the sessions are general enough to be interesting to a larger number of SLD members, but not too general.

If your proposal is not accepted in the end, please consider different means of sharing your knowledge: in *SlavFile* (Lydia Razran Stone, the *SlavFile* Editor, can be reached at lydiastone@verizon.net), or on the SLD Blog (Christopher Tauchen, the SLD Blog Editor, can be reached at blogeditors@atasld.org).

As a reminder, the SLD ATA Certification Practice Group (see article on page 6) continues to be active and invites both those SLD members who would like to prepare for the ATA Certification Exam and the certified SLD members to provide suggestions to the candidates. We do not expect anyone to be able to read graders' minds, but would very much appreciate feedback on translation solutions from more experienced colleagues.

TRANSLATORS/INTERPRETERS OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES OTHER THAN RUSSIAN

We are eager to publish articles pertaining to your languages. Please send articles, ideas for articles, or suggestions for articles to reprint to the following.

Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian: Paul Makinen, makinen_20712@yahoo.com

Polish: Christine Pawlowski, pawlow@verizon.net

Ukrainian: Olga Shostachuk, olgalviv@yahoo.com

In regard to languages not listed above contact Editor Lydia Stone, lydiastone@verizon.net.

She would also be delighted to receive offers to edit and coordinate articles pertaining to those languages.

ATA Certification Exam

The Slavic Languages Division ATA Exam Practice Group

From Inception to Practice

Maria Guzenko and Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya

Like many people considering taking the ATA certification exam, Maria, the initiator of the group, started by taking an official practice test in February 2016. After receiving the grader's feedback, she wanted to work with colleagues on areas that needed improvement. She posted a call for practice partners on LinkedIn, which Ekaterina Howard helped publicize among Slavic Languages Division (SLD) members. Numerous people responded, including some in other language combinations. Maria exchanged translations and feedback with a few Russian translators, but coordinating this effort effectively was a challenge. It was obvious that we needed a better system for people who wanted to practice for the certification exam.

Choice of Platform

At the 2016 ATA Conference in San Francisco, the need for a practice group was raised again at the SLD meeting. Maria and Eugenia volunteered to oversee that effort, with Ekaterina's administrative support. They decided on Slack as the platform for coordinating the practice group. Slack is an online tool for group communications, organized in custom "channels" (think message boards). It also allows

participants to send each other private messages, which is useful for discreetly exchanging feedback with a practice partner. In addition to the two default channels ("general" and "random"), the organizers created a channel for each language combination currently available for certification.

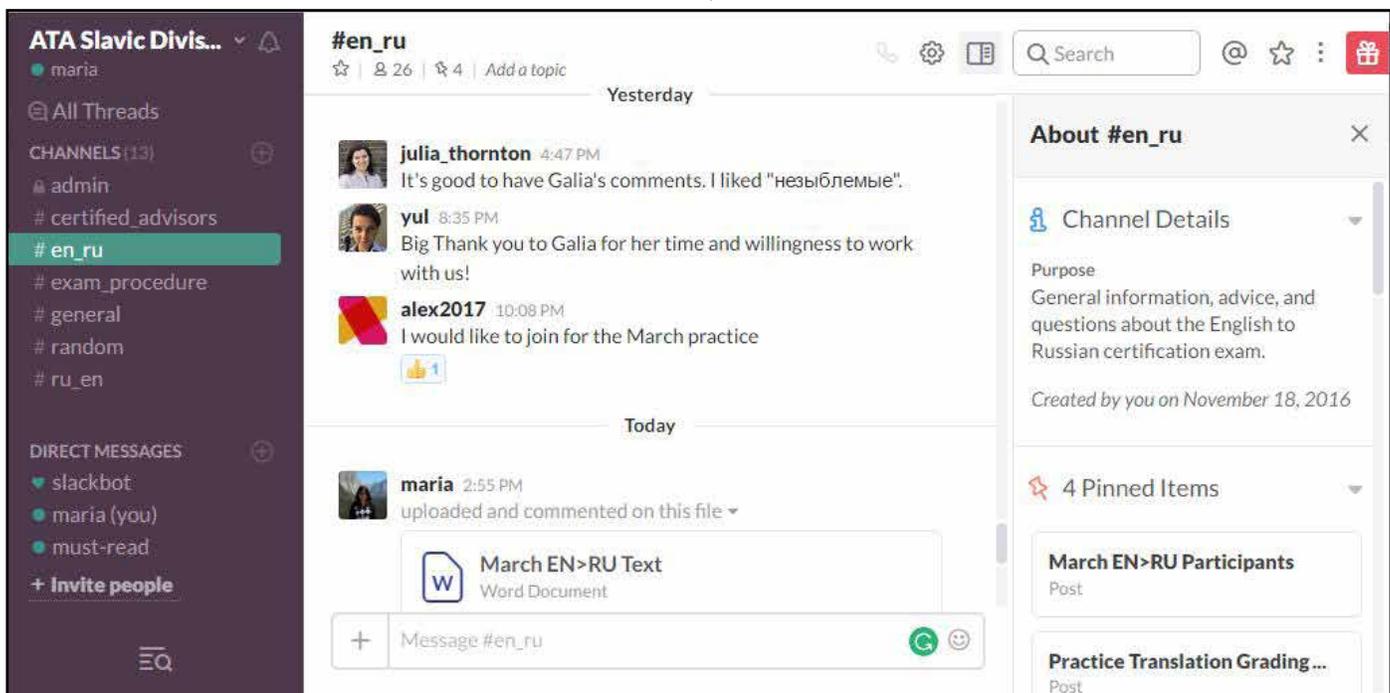
Some of our reasons for choosing Slack were:

- A free trial version with features that met the group's needs
- The ability to communicate asynchronously, useful for participants in different time zones
- File upload and sharing options, eliminating the need to email documents back and forth

Now that the group has been practicing for a few months, it appears that Slack has met the group's needs reasonably well, although new participants have needed initial guidance on the unfamiliar interface.

Recruiting Participants and Reviewers

Once the medium for the group had been chosen, in December 2016 Slavic Languages Division members received an announcement about the practice group. The message encouraged anyone interested in



Screenshot of the practice group online interface

practicing for the exam or providing feedback on translations to contact the group organizers, who would then invite people one by one to the Slack platform. The newly-added participants were encouraged to join the channel for the language combination(s) in which they wanted to practice.

Practice Procedure

Even though the organizers had an initial plan for running practice sessions, the current procedure has evolved organically through trial and error after several rounds of practice.

1. The members of a particular channel opt in to take part in that month's translation practice; the organizers publish a list of all participants for the month.
2. A practice passage is posted. The participants translate the passage independently under exam conditions and send their translation to the people whose names come immediately before and after them on the list of participants. In other words, all participants exchange translations with two of their peers.
3. Using the Track Changes feature in a word processor, each participant corrects and scores the received translations according to the ATA Framework for Marking Errors and sends them back to their authors.
4. All practice participants share the challenges they encountered in the text and discuss possible solutions.
5. The organizers put together a list of challenges and solicit feedback from the volunteer consultants for that language combination.
6. Once the reviewers send back their suggestions, the organizers share them with channel members. The reviewers do not grade each individual translation; they only provide overall guidance on specific challenges. This way, the official practice exam and the SLD practice group complement each other instead of competing.

The entire cycle for one passage normally takes a month, with overlaps between cycles.

Choice of Text

Since it would not be possible to provide real ATA passages (even old passages, let alone the current ones), Maria, Eugenia, and Ekaterina have been taking turns choosing passages. Sources have

included articles from Russian and American magazines and newspapers, as well as print sources such as textbooks and academic publications. Once we have identified a source, we pull an excerpt of about 225-275 words and adapt it to match the typical features of an ATA exam text.

The passages are modeled after the description for a general passage (formerly known as Passage A): "a general text that expresses a view, sets forth an argument, or presents a new idea, such as a newspaper editorial, an essay, or a nonfiction book." As much as possible, we try to choose texts that present challenges similar to those in the ATA exam: a line of argument that may be tough to follow, a few terminological challenges, interesting syntax, and a professional or semi-formal register. Of course, there have been a couple of missteps, such as terms too obscure to be found in a general dictionary, or a register that skews a little too colloquial, but our ATA-grader reviewers are kind enough to tip us off when that happens.

Progress to Date

As of mid-March 2017, the Slack platform had 56 members; between direct messages and group discussions, 2,500 messages had been sent; and 348 files had been uploaded. So far the group has worked through three rounds of passages for the active channels, with the fourth either under way or about to be launched. Since settling on the procedure described above, we have held steady at about 10-12 participants per text in the Russian channels, enough for us to switch partners and get feedback from different people almost every time. We have also been exchanging messages about exam procedure, strategies, and resources.

Unfortunately, getting the other language combinations going has been difficult. We are actively working to kickstart the English>Ukrainian channel, where finding a passage is less of an issue, but low membership has been a continual roadblock. Another challenge has been recruiting participants and reviewers for the English<>Croatian and English<>Polish language combinations. As a bare minimum, we need two active participants in each language combination, who can exchange translations and feedback.

In addition, choosing passages for languages other than English and Russian has been challenging, since none of the organizers (Maria, Eugenia, or Ekaterina) speak the other languages of the division.

We sent out a survey to group participants, to which one respondent commented, "Peer review and discussion is invaluable. Seeing other translations and knowing that everyone makes mistakes helped me

have a more relaxed approach to the exam. I also enjoy discussions on hard-to-translate words. Getting feedback from graders also helps to know what they will be looking for.” Out of 14 respondents who rated the usefulness of the group for preparing for the exam, 12 rated it as “useful” or “very useful.”

What’s Next?

Since the goal of the group is to prepare for the ATA exam, we were happy to hear that two of our participants have signed up for upcoming sittings. Wish them luck!

We are always looking for ways to improve our group. In April we hope to conduct a survey of everyone involved: current and former participants, organizers, consultants, and contacts at ATA. The feedback will help us better understand our members and identify any aspects of the group that could benefit from improvements. It may also be featured in a conference session that Eugenia proposed for the 58th ATA Conference in Washington, D.C. (waiting on acceptance — fingers crossed!).

In the meantime, we will keep posting passages, and are always happy to welcome new participants! The platform and format we chose makes it easy for new members to join channels and opt in to work on any given round. We hope that, as people come and go, the group as a whole will keep running and providing benefits to SLD members. Maria and Eugenia will continue managing the group as administrators, at least until the next conference, and then look into passing the baton in a smooth transition.

Thanks and How You Can Get Involved

We have been very grateful for the time put into the practice group by everyone involved: our volunteer administrators and consultants as well as our participants. The success and continued operation of the group depends heavily on members’ willingness to stay connected and engaged, to volunteer time out of their busy professional lives to work on translations and give feedback. We may have set up the platform, but for this to work, someone had to come and use it.

ARE YOU JUST GETTING STARTED IN OUR PROFESSION OR HAVE YOU RECENTLY JOINED ATA?

Consider introducing yourself to our membership by writing a profile of yourself for “**Who’s New**,” our regular column devoted to SLD members new to the division or profession. Contact [Lydia Stone](#) with inquiries or, better yet, send her your profile.

We would like especially to thank Elana Pick, Galia Williams, and Nora Favorov — certified translators and/or ATA graders who have been so generous with their time and helped us avoid the danger of the blind leading the blind. If you are an ATA-certified translator, or even a grader, and are interested in volunteering, we invite you to email Eugenia (eugenia@sokoloskayatranslations.com) or Maria (maria.guzenko@intorussian.net).

Here are some ways you can get involved, as a participant or a volunteer:

- Choosing Croatian, Ukrainian, and Polish passages for into-English translation
- Providing feedback on translation challenges for any of the combinations (English<>Croatian, Polish, Russian, or Ukrainian)
- Practicing for the ATA exam, especially in Croatian, Polish, or Ukrainian<>English
- Helping with administering the group (to start around the next ATA conference); administrators do not have to be certified

Email us for an invitation or with any questions you may have. We hope you can join us!

Maria Guzenko (maria.guzenko@intorussian.net) is an English-to-Russian translator specializing in healthcare, corporate, and marketing translation. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Translation from Kent State University. Maria has also worked as a project manager in the translation industry and a Russian instructor.

Her recent translation assignments include a business proposal for an American translation company, market research surveys, and medical records for insurance purposes. Along with Eugenia Tietz-Sokoloskaya, Maria is a co-administrator of the certification exam online practice group for the Slavic Languages Division.

Eugenia Tietz-Sokoloskaya (eugenia@sokoloskayatranslations.com) is a Russian to English translator specializing in legal and financial translation. In 2016, she became ATA certified, graduated from Kent State University with an MA in Translation, and launched into full-time freelancing—and so far has not regretted any of those decisions.

A Practical Guide to Passing the Ukrainian into English Certification Exam

Olga Shostachuk, ATA Certification Grader

(with other members of the Ukrainian>English certification group: Elena Morrow and Kathy Stackhouse)



In January 2016, after four years of meticulous and fruitful work, the Ukrainian into English Certification Examination was launched. The members of the Ukrainian>English grading group have decided to jot down a few tips to help potential candidates. John Riedl, with other members of the Russian>English certification group, has published an informative article in the Spring 2016 issue of *SlavFile* (<http://atasld.org/sites/atasld.org/files/slavfile/spring-2016.pdf>, page 22) highlighting most of the major points about the ATA Russian>English exam. These can be applied to most Slavic>English exams, but we thought we'd also add our two cents. For one thing, there have been a few changes to the ATA certification program and prospective candidates should be aware of those changes.

A certification candidate must have been an ATA member for at least four weeks prior to the exam date; however, as of January 1, 2017, any ATA member can take the exam in any language pair. The eligibility requirements that had been in place (other than agreeing to ATA's code of ethics) have been eliminated, primarily because these requirements did not improve pass rates. With changes that took effect in 2017, an ATA certification exam now offers three general passages designed to be 225 to 275 words in length in English (whether as source or target language). Candidates must choose two of the three to translate within the three-hour time period. Candidates at most sittings will be able to choose whether they prefer to take the exam in handwritten form or on a computer. For either form of the exam candidates may use whatever paper references they choose to bring. In addition, certain online references are permitted for the computerized exam. Specific computerized references have not yet been approved or banned for Ukrainian, but a candidate or potential candidate may submit inquiries as to whether a particular site is permitted. General guidelines for what sites may or may not be accessed during the exam may be found at

www.atanet.org/certification/aboutexams_computerized.php. (A *Chronicle* article detailing the 2017 changes to the certification exam can be found here: <https://goo.gl/gb724g>)

The passages are general in nature and contain no highly specialized terminology challenges requiring research. All terminology challenges in the passage can be met with a good general dictionary. The passages are selected from news stories (e.g., articles, commentaries, or features in major periodicals), correspondence, and reports (general subject matter). Sources may include technical material, academic articles and books, and textbooks if there is adequate contextual information to support translation. The passages are likely to include hypotheses, argumentation, and supported opinions.

Each exam passage includes Translation Instructions (TIs), providing information about the source text (ST), the specific communicative purpose and context in which the text is used, the intended uses of the translation and what it aims to accomplish, as well as its audience and medium. In other words, just as in real-life translation assignments, TIs give the translator the background information needed to produce a text appropriate to a given purpose.

Each passage tests comprehension of the source-language text, translation transfer skills, and writing ability in the target language. A potential candidate should be able to comprehend, analyze, and interpret the ST correctly, relate ideas, and “read between the lines” (that is, understand writers’ implicit intents in texts of the above nonspecialized types). The candidate should also follow the TIs so as to produce a target text (TT) appropriate to the stated purpose in terms of subject matter, approach to the subject, level of formality, etc. Attention should be paid to reproducing cohesive devices found in the ST, such as, temporal sequences, logical connections (argumentation), and chains of reference.

In addition to more general translation challenges, the candidate faces language-specific challenges, namely sentence-level and word-level challenges. For sentence-level challenges in particular, candidates are

strongly urged to study the Into-English Grading Standards (www.atanet.org/certification/Into_English_Grading_2013.pdf) before taking an into-English exam. Those not planning to take the exam in the immediate future will want to know that a new version of the standards will be available later this summer. This document is a useful review of the basic rules of English grammar, usage, and punctuation for anyone who routinely writes in English, no matter their experience level, and additionally includes ATA-specific scoring guidelines ATA graders are asked to follow.

The Standards touch upon many useful topics, and studying them beforehand may help a candidate eliminate a significant number of errors (exams pass if fewer than 18 error points are marked). Graders abide by the Standards and grade according to them, so candidates should know in advance, for example, how they are expected to treat an acronym in the ST representing an organization well-known in the source-language country but not the target-language country.

One classic error often seen in Ukrainian>English translations (as well as Slavic>English translations in general) is reproducing “run-on” sentences. These are abundant in Ukrainian writing but are regarded as errors in English. Another typical error translating between Ukrainian and English is failing to distinguish between restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses, since in Ukrainian commas always separate such clauses from the nouns they modify. For example, “[п]олітична партія сьогодні—це політична організація, яка виражає інтереси. . .” (Correctly: “Today’s political party is a political organization that expresses the interests...”). A literal rendering of punctuation in the Ukrainian sentence (“Today’s political party – this is a political organization, that expresses the interests...”) would legitimately be given two 1 point errors for punctuation and possibly a meaning error for ambiguous designation of a restrictive clause.

The candidate should also be able to reorganize or recast complex sentences so that they sound natural in the target language (without omitting any essential meaning), adjust verb tenses and moods (e.g., past, present, perfect, subjunctive, conditional) in the TT to preserve the meaning of the ST, supply words that are missing in the ST but required in the TT (e.g., antecedents in English for demonstratives like *this* or *that*), and figure out how words in a complex sentence relate to one another based on context or an overall understanding of the text (e.g., adjective–noun modification, case relations). For example, “якщо Божі

думки, тобто його спосіб мислення, будуть прищеплені у розуми дітей, то це допоможе їм уникати поганих вчинків” (“if godly thoughts, that is, a godly way of thinking, are implanted in children’s minds, it will help them avoid going astray”).

The Ukrainian language makes abundant use of noun structures, whereas English relies more heavily on verbs. What is natural in an East Slavic language, may, if translated word for word, result in a structure that is very awkward and even hard to follow in English. For example, “заява на використання надр у власних цілях” (“subsoil application for internal needs”; literally: “application for using subsoil for their own needs”). A candidate would face the challenge of changing the phrase structure to make the text read more naturally in English.

The candidate will also encounter word-level challenges. The examination will not include highly technical or domain specific terms not found in a general bilingual dictionary, but it may well present false cognates or figurative or idiomatic expressions that are relatively common in the source language. Candidates can expect to be required to use logic in choosing the context-appropriate non-literal meaning of a word from a number of possible alternatives (given in a dictionary, for example) and avoiding literal translations of words that have special meanings that cannot be deduced from their roots or components, such as “нічні посиденьки з друзями у соцмережах, пізні вставання і пристрасть до нездорової їжі доведеться відкласти” (“hanging out at night with friends on social networks, getting up late, and a predilection for unhealthy food should be put off,” from О. Білик “Дзеркало тижня” 2015).

Given that our group is relatively new, we are unable to provide examples of actual errors from retired passages because we do not have any retired passages yet; however, this short overview, along with the article by John Riedl, should serve as a useful guide to tackling the exam. As John correctly stated, “By avoiding the pitfalls and following the best practices, you are not guaranteed to pass, but you will certainly improve your chances.” Good luck and stay tuned for Part II in an upcoming issue of *SlavFile*!

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Magdalena Perdek's Presentation: Finding Functional Equivalents of Legal Terms in Polish and English

Reviewed by Alicja Yarborough

At the 57th Annual Conference of the American Translator's Association (ATA), Magdalena Perdek, PhD, delivered an interesting presentation entitled, "Finding Functional Equivalents of Legal Terms in Polish and English." Magdalena, a court interpreter and an assistant professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, presented to a full room. The information in her presentation is very useful to Polish legal translators and those who encounter legal language in other fields. Even translators who do not work with Polish or legal material would profit by the reminder of the complexity of translating between two languages when the analogous systems that they refer to differ considerably in the details. Magdalena provided an impressive illustration of how this complexity can be dealt with through analysis of the referents of different terms.

Magdalena began her presentation by comparing legal systems and cultures in Poland and the United States. She outlined differences in common law used in the US (which is based on the British system except in Louisiana) and the Polish system based on civil law (also known as Roman law). In Poland there is a single court system, and the judge has initiative power in the proceedings. This means that judges may assess the evidence presented and question witnesses directly. In the United States, there are both state and federal courts and the judge serves as an arbiter. In contrast to the Polish system, the parties (defense and plaintiff attorneys) have the initiative. Moreover, in the US but not in Poland, the Supreme Court has the power to change the law nationwide.

For this reason, there is no absolute terminological symmetry, and certain terms may be unique to certain legal systems. The differences caused by the different systems often cause problems and confusion in translation.

One simple example of such confusion is the translation of the names of the different courts in Poland. The *Sąd Rejonowy* (SR) is the court of first instance in most cases, although a small number of cases are required to be tried only by the *Sąd Okręgowy*. The latter (SO) is also the court of second instance for cases already tried in the SR. Translators face challenges over the definition of region vs. district—*rejon* vs.

okręg—in the geographical sense. The widely accepted translations are "District Court" for *Sąd Rejonowy* and "Regional Court" for *Sąd Okręgowy*. Confusingly, the Ministry of Justice on its English website version uses "regional" for *rejonowy* and "district" for *okręgowy*.



There are also other key differences in terms referring to circuit courts, local courts, and provincial courts. If you were to try to translate "US District Court, District of Oregon," you would find the following options: *Federalny sąd rejonowy dla dystryktu Oregon*; *Federalny sąd okręgowy dla okręgu Oregon*; or *Federalny sąd dystryktowy dla okręgu Oregon*.

Translating the designation of legal professions in Poland is not easier. *Adwokat* may refer to an attorney (sometimes referred to as attorney-at-law). *Radca prawny* can refer to various roles, including a certified legal counselor, a legal advisor, or an attorney. *Notariusz* refers to either a notary for civil law or a public notary. Translators are forced to deal with these ambiguities constantly.

Magdalena went on to talk about terminology that is specific to civil and criminal law. She selected the term "*defendant*" as an illustration of how complex such terminology is in the translation of legal proceedings. There are three possible Polish equivalents: *pozwany* (in a civil trial); *oskarżony* (in a criminal trial); or *obwiniony* (in a petty offense trial). Additionally there are unique nuances in the names used for the accused. The Polish Code of Criminal



Keith Goeringer talks to Magdalena Perdek about her presentation.
PHOTO: Fred Grasso

Slides from the presentation showing the complexity of distinguishing legal terms in translation

Umowa zlecenia / Umowa o dzieło		Translation approaches	
Umowa zlecenia	Umowa o dzieło	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If it's <i>umowa zlecenia</i> for e.g. cleaning services then maybe a better solution would be <i>Cleaning services agreement/contract</i> <i>Contract to provide cleaning services</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">nominate contract (regulated by the civil code)<i>umowa starannego wykonania</i> – “best efforts”obowiązkowe składki ZUS (tzw. ozusowanie) – social benefits obligatoryoften used to avoid signing employment contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none">nominate contract (regulated by the civil code)<i>umowa rezultatu</i> – final resultbez składek ZUS – no social benefitsoften used by translators working with LSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If it's <i>umowa o dzieło</i> for e.g. translation services then maybe we could say <i>Translation services agreement</i>	
CONTRACT OF MANDATE*	CONTRACT TO PERFORM SPECIFIC TASK / WORK *		

Procedure uses two terms for suspect: “a suspected person” (*osoba podejrzana*) and simply “suspect” (*podejrzany*). *Osoba podejrzana* (a suspected person) is someone suspected of committing a crime at the time when no official decision has been made to press charges against that person. If it has been officially decided to press charges during an investigation, the suspect is referred to as *podejrzany*.

Magdalena told us of several terms unique to Polish civil law. For example, “*Odpowiedzialność solidarna*” may be translated as a “solidary liability” in the civil law system and “joint and several liability” in common law. She also described the complexity of texts such as employment contracts. One of the examples involved two types of Polish contracts: *umowa zlecenia*, literally a “contract of mandate” (in which, according to Black’s Law Dictionary, a lawful business is consigned to the management of another) and *umowa o dzieło*, literally a “work contract.” Magdalena analyzed the

difference between the two concepts in Polish law (see the slides above used with the author’s permission.) and concluded that both might be more accurately translated as service agreements, with the first being appropriate for cleaning services and the latter for translation services.

To complete her presentation, Magdalena moderated a discussion with the audience about the differences between the two systems and asked for suggestions as to how to translate legal terms for US legal concepts that do not have analogs in Polish or standard Polish renderings. These included “Mirandize,” “three-strike law,” “fee simple,” “booking,” and “to enter a judgment.” It became clear that the differences in systems present both challenges and opportunities for translators and that Magdalena is truly working at a frontier of translation.

A recommended list of resources for Polish<>English legal translation is presented below.

- Berezowski, L., 2014. *Jak czytać i rozumieć angielskie dokumenty sądowe w sprawach cywilnych?* C.H. Beck.
- Berezowski, L., 2014. *Jak czytać i rozumieć angielskie umowy?* C.H. Beck.
- Berezowski, L., 2015. *Jak czytać i rozumieć angielskie dokumenty notarialne, testamenty i pełnomocnictwa?* C.H. Beck.
- Jopek-Bosiacka, A., 2006. *Przekład prawny i sądowy*. PWN.
- Konieczna-Purchała. 2015. *Przekład prawniczy. Praktyczne ćwiczenia*. C.H. Beck.
- Łozioska-Małkiewicz E., Małkiewicz J. 2005. *Polsko-angielski słownik terminologii prawniczej*. Wyd. Ewa
- Łozioska-Małkiewicz E., Małkiewicz J. 2007. *Angielsko-polski słownik terminologii prawniczej*. Wyd. Ewa
- Młodawska, A., 2012. *Advanced Legal English for Polish Purposes*. Wolters Kluwer
- Myrczek-Kadłubicka. 2012. *Egzamin na tłumacza przysięgłego. Przewodnik po prawie karnym*. C.H. Beck.
- Myrczek-Kadłubicka. 2014. *Egzamin na tłumacza przysięgłego. Przewodnik po prawie cywilnym. Prawo rzeczowe i spadkowe* C.H. Beck.
- Myrczek-Kadłubicka, E. 2012. *Lexicon of Law Terms*. Warszawa: C.H. Beck.
- Wilioski, P., Szwarc S., Dajczak W. (red). 2011. *Handbook of Polish Law*. PWN

legalenglishexpert.pl

tlumaczeniaprawnicze.com.pl

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Rosamund Bartlett on Her Translation of *Anna Karenina*

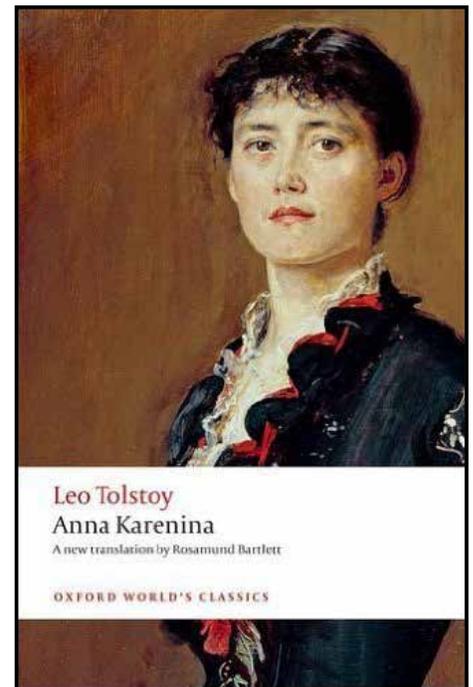
From Rosamund Bartlett's "Notes on the Text and Translation" of *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy (Oxford World's Classics, 2014).

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Editors' Note: We are offering these words of Rosamund Bartlett in lieu of a review of her ATA57 Literary Division talk, presented with Marian Schwartz, about their two recent translations of Tolstoy's great novel. A similar excerpt from the preface to Ms. Schwartz' translation appeared in the Winter 2017 issue of SlavFile.

This translation seeks to preserve all the idiosyncrasies of Tolstoy's inimitable style, as far as that is possible, including the majority of his signature repetitions, so often smoothed over by previous translators, his occasional use of specialized vocabulary particularly in those chapters concerning rural life, and his subtle changes of register, as in those instances where the introduction of an almost imperceptible but unmistakable note of irony is concerned. At the same time, it is a mistake to render Tolstoy too literally. He was often a clumsy and occasionally ungrammatical writer, but there is a majesty and elegance to his prose which needs to be emulated in translation wherever possible. Tolstoy loved the particular properties of the Russian language, but he would not have expected them to be reproduced exactly in translation, and would have surely expected his translators to draw on the particular strengths of their own languages. The aim here, therefore, is to produce a translation which is idiomatic as well as faithful to the original, and one which ideally reads as if it was written in one's own language.

Russian, where one word can convey many meanings, each dependent on the context, functions in a very different way to English, which tends to have many different words for a phenomenon, all with precise shades of meaning. Thus, while this translation retains most of Tolstoy's repetitions, in those instances where identical translation of the same word would fail to convey the richness of meaning implied in the original, nuance has been sought by finding equivalents in English. This is the case with the Russian word *veselo* and its variants, for example, a word which in general means 'jolly' or 'cheerful'. It occurs three hundred and eighteen times in the text of *Anna Karenina*, and nine times in the space of a few paragraphs in Part Two, chapter 35. Seven different English words or expressions have been used in this translation to convey what is implied in the original Russian single root-word: 'high spirits', 'merrily', 'jolly', 'livelier', 'amusing', 'light-hearted', 'gleeful'.



Tolstoy's congested sentences, brimming with gerunds, participles, and relative clauses, pose a particular challenge to the translator wishing to render them into English. Not only is word-order more rigid in English, due to the fact that words do not decline, as in Russian, but some sentences are extremely long (some contain over a hundred words). "Have you ever paid attention to Tolstoy's language?" Chekhov once said to a friend; "enormous sentences, one clause piled on top of another. I do not think this is accidental, that it is a flaw. It is art, and it is achieved through hard work. These sentences produce an impression of strength." Russian writers marveled at Tolstoy's ability to write so simply, using non-bookish, everyday speech, eschewing rhetorical devices and trite turns of phrase, but also so powerfully. As the Soviet writer Yury Olesha perceptively observed in 1950 in his notebooks, Tolstoy's style was of a piece with the anarchic position he took on nearly everything in his life:

Dr. Bartlett goes on to cite a quote from Olesha that we do not have permission to cite verbatim, but which emphasizes that the incorrectness and even apparent clumsiness of Tolstoy's style, which he willingly acknowledged, is an expression of his rebellion against all norms and conventions."

Continued on next page

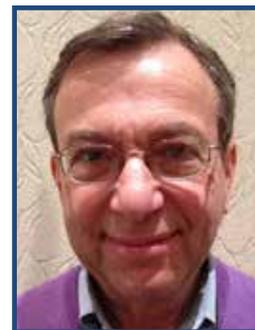
From Editor Lydia Stone.

For a previous project I had acquired all the pre-2014 English translations of Anna Karenina that were not publicly available on the internet and this year completed my collection with the two discussed at ATA57. Since both speakers used the famous first sentence and subsequent paragraph as an example, I found it interesting to compare the first three English sentences of what many consider to be the world's greatest novel across the 10 available translations. I am hoping this comparative data will be of similar interest to SlavFile readers. Translations are listed in chronological order.

Лев Толстой 1877	
Все счастливые семьи похожи друг на друга, каждая несчастливая семья несчастлива по-своему. Все смешалось в доме Облонских. Жена узнала, что муж был в связи с бывшею в их доме французенкою-гувернанткой, и объявила мужу что не может жить с ним в одном доме.	
Nathan Dole 1887	Constance Garnett 1901
All happy families resemble one another; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. All was confusion in the house of the Oblonskys. The wife had discovered that her husband was having an intrigue with a French governess who had been in their employ and she declared that she could not live in the same house with him.	Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Everything was in confusion in the Oblonskys' house. The wife had discovered that the husband was carrying on an intrigue with a French girl, who had been a governess in their family, and she had announced to her husband that she could not go on living in the same house with him.
Louise and Aylmer Maude 1918	Rosemary Edmunds 1954
All happy families resemble one another, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Everything was upset in the Oblonskys' house. The wife had discovered an intrigue between her husband and their former French governess, and declared she would not continue to live under the same roof with him.	All happy families are alike, but an unhappy family is unhappy after its own fashion. Everything had gone wrong in the Oblonsky household. The wife had found out about her husband's relationship with their former French governess and had announced she could not go on living in the same house with him.
Joel Carmichael 1960	David Magarshak 1961
Happy families are all alike: every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Everything at the Oblonskys' was topsy-turvy. Oblonsky's wife had found out that he had been having an affair with the French governess who used to live with them and told him she could no longer stay under the same roof with him.	All happy families are like one another; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Everything was in confusion in the Oblonsky household. The wife had found out that the husband had had an affair with their French governess and had told him that she could not go on living in the same house with him.
Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky 2000	Kyril Zinovieff and Jenny Hughes 2008
All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. All was confusion in the Oblonskys' house. The wife had found out that the husband was having an affair with their former French governess and had announced to the husband that she could not live in the same house with him.	All happy families are alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. There was total confusion in the Oblonsky house. The wife had found that the husband was having an adulterous affair with their former French governess and had announced to her husband that she could no longer live under the same roof with him.
Rosamund Bartlett 2014	Marian Schwartz 2014
All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Everything was confusion in the Oblonskys' house. The wife had found out that the husband was having an affair with the French governess formerly in their house and had announced to the husband that she could not live with him in the same house.	All happy families resemble one another; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. The Oblonsky home was all confusion. The wife had found out about her husband's affair with the French governess formerly in their home and had informed her husband that she could not go on living in the same house with him.

HIDDEN TRAPS

Steve Shabad



We continue with our series of articles submitted to a Roundtable Discussion on bilingual idioms and idiom dictionaries, which was organized by Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij and the late Sophie Lubensky. An edited version of this contribution appeared in *The Journal of International Lexicography*, Vol. 28, pp.442-445.

One of the things that I love about translating is that no matter how much we “master” our craft, we are still learning, still facing constant challenges in our work. Despite having been a Russian-English translator all my adult life (which is more years than I am willing to admit), I am still making discoveries. It took me years to seriously deal with the imperative of getting away from an overly literal translation of the Russian source. It is, in a sense, like escaping the gravitational pull of the original in order to enter the gravitational field of an idiomatic English translation.

An obvious example of this problem is false cognates – which are false not only because of different meanings in the two languages but also because of different usages even when the meanings are virtually identical. But false cognates, I finally came to realize, were merely a subset of a larger category that I would call “Hidden Traps.” These are Russian phrases and idioms that appear to be straightforward and to call for a direct translation, but in fact are semantically different. The context is always key, for it usually provides the necessary clue for the translator. A few examples:

1) В принципе. While the Russian phrase is semantically close to the English “in principle,” the more frequent and varied use in Russian puts it in the category of a false cognate. Examples:

a) Они прекрасно понимали, что регистрация электромагнитного импульса **в принципе** дает возможность почти мгновенно получить информацию о ядерном взрыве (They knew perfectly well that the recording of an electromagnetic pulse, **in general**, would make it possible almost instantly to obtain information on the nuclear explosion).

b) Не может существовать юридических обязательств, которые **в принципе** не предполагается исполнять (There can be no legal obligations that **in principle** are not expected to be performed).

c) **В принципе**, следует согласиться с этой аргументацией (**Basically**, we agree with this line of argument).

d) Тот факт, что внешне это может проявляться в разное время и в разных местах, ничего не меняет **в принципе** (The fact that externally this can be manifested at various times and in various places does not change anything **in theory**).

e) **В принципе**, возможны несколько подходов в разрешении этого затруднения (**Basically**, several approaches are possible in dealing with these difficulties).

f) Прежде всего, не надо планировать то, что **в принципе** недостижимо, необходимо обеспечить полное соответствие планируемых потребностей с имеющимися финансовыми возможностями (Above all, one should not plan what **in theory** is unattainable; planned requirements must fully conform with available financial capabilities).

In principle (pun intended), it would not be technically wrong to translate **в принципе** in all of these examples as “in principle.” But the fact that the phrase is used much more often in Russian – it took little effort for me to collect these examples – than in English suggests that in many, if not most, cases it is not idiomatic in English. Words and phrases such as “basically,” “in general” or “in theory,” convey the same meaning in a more suitable way.

2) В связи с (чем-либо). This is no longer in the realm of cognates, but simply a hidden trap that tries to “trick” the translator into staying within the gravitational pull of the Russian source. Consider:

a) Освобождение от наказания **в связи с состоянием здоровья осуждённого** (An exemption from punishment **due** to the health of the convicted person).

b) Страхование по безработице покрывает риск, **возникающий в связи с потерей работы или невозможностью трудоустроиться** (Unemployment insurance covers the risk **that results from** the loss of work or an inability to get a job).

c) Зачастую косвенные (социальные) эффекты данных программ, выраженные в росте

успеваемости, улучшении физического состояния детей или улучшении питания трудно оценить. **В связи с этим** в данном разделе будут представлены основные расходы государства на поддержание программ социальной защиты и некоторые количественные показатели выгод от вложенных средств (It is often difficult to evaluate the indirect (social) effects of these programs in terms of enhanced academic performance, an improvement in children's physical condition or an improvement in diet. **As a result**, this section will present the government's main expenditures on supporting social-protection programs and some quantitative indicators of the benefits from the investments).

Again, the fact that this phrase is constantly used in Russian – far more often than the English phrase “in connection with” – is a tip-off. But more to the point is the semantic distinction. More often than not, as in the above examples, “в связи с” denotes a cause-and-effect relationship between the two parts of the sentence. So the more idiomatic rendering is an English phrase such as “as a result of,” “because of,” “due to.” And a corollary of that point is that the phrase “в связи с чем,” when referring to the phrase that precedes it, should be translated as “therefore,” “as a result,” “accordingly” or the like.

All of this is not to negate the fact that sometimes, when no causal relationship is evident, “in connection with” or “in regard to” is not only perfectly acceptable, but the proper equivalent. For instance:

В связи с вышеупомянутым проектом, хотелось бы обратить Ваше внимание на... (**In connection** with the aforementioned project, I would like to call your attention to...)

Here the phrase comes from a letter on the subject of a certain project, and the English phrase “in connection with,” “in regard to” or the like is clearly the correct choice.

3) A final example of a trap: Как сообщает..., как считает, etc. The word “как” here would seem to call for “as,” but the word “as” suggests that what it modifies is an example of what precedes or follows it. In Russian, however, “как” usually carries no such meaning.

Как сообщает ИТАР-ТАСС, норовирусом заразились свыше 120 пассажиров и членов экипажа (**According to** ITAR-Tass, more than 120 passengers and crew members contracted the norovirus).

Судебная система работает избирательно и

люди не равны перед законом. Такое положение дел убивает в людях базовое чувство справедливости, и именно за восстановлением справедливости, **как считают эксперты, российские граждане обращаются в Европейский суд (The experts believe that the judicial system works selectively and people are not equal before the law. This state of affairs kills the basic sense of justice in people, and it is precisely to restore justice, the experts believe, that Russian citizens apply to the European Court.)**

Европарламент сегодня рассмотрит и, **как ожидается**, примет резолюцию по правам человека в России (The Europarliament today will consider, **and is expected** to adopt, a resolution on human rights in Russia).

These challenges constantly test the translator's resourcefulness: digest the meaning of the source, remain as faithful as possible to it, but not slavishly so, and produce an equivalent that is idiomatic in the target language.

The Russian-English translator can find excellent solutions for the first two cases – which are idioms – in Sophia Lubensky's own *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms*, which is easily the best volume of its kind available, with a quite comprehensive and on-the-mark selection of English equivalents.

Another useful source is the famous online dictionary www.multitran.ru, but it takes a scattershot approach to translation. That is, it is indiscriminately accepts contributions from anyone who registers with it – and while some are quite good, others do not fit or occasionally are downright wrong. It is best used by translators who have a good sense of the meaning they are looking for.

Sometimes, however, the hidden trap is not an idiom, as in the third case, involving the word combinations “как сообщает,” “как сказал,” “как считают,” etc. And since there is no specific phrase or clear-cut definition of как to look up in a monolingual or bilingual dictionary, the translator must rely on context (see the examples above) to reveal the true meaning. Ideally, such phrases, which are not idioms but still pose traps, would be incorporated into future dictionaries, both regular and specialized ones.

Steve Shabad is a veteran Russian>English translator who originally learned Russian while attending a Soviet high school for four years during the time his father served as a New York Times correspondent in Moscow. He has translated thousands of articles and documents, as well as five books, spanning subjects from the law and business to Russian politics and history. For many years, he was an associate editor for Newsweek magazine and wrote a column on the Soviet/Russian press for the monthly World Press Review. He can be reached at steve.shabad@verizon.net

SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

What's in a name? Our frequent contributor, formerly known as Eugenia Sokolskaya, has gotten married, to a lucky fellow evidently surnamed Tietz. Recently she sent me a note by snail-mail with an address label for Tietz-Sokolskiye. I was immediately struck by the creative plural ending of the last part of the compound—finding it highly appropriate (if, possibly, shocking to Russian language purists) for a new portmanteau name for couple. I wrote and asked Zhenya about it, also asking permission to discuss it in this column. Here is her reply.

It was mostly my husband's idea, with me grudgingly playing along. When picking out a domain to host our wedding website, he decided that calling it "Tietz-Sokolsky" would be too skewed in favor of the male form, so he asked about the plural, and has been obsessed with the form ever since. As you can see, we even got address labels with it... I've never seen anyone else do it this way. My view is that keeping the gendered last names (at my insistence) is confusing enough, so adding a third form that doesn't match either of our names is probably overkill, even if there is a certain cultural consistency to it.

I was going to stay Sokolskaya professionally, but it got to be very complicated legally/financially, when the name I was using with clients didn't match the name on my bank account... So now I'm Tietz-Sokolskaya in everything. My husband, on the other hand, is still Tietz legally and professionally, but Tietz-Sokolsky in social contexts.

Coincidentally I have been thinking about my own name lately since two cousins of mine, whom I have not been in contact with for something like 40 years, separately contacted me in the last few weeks, having found me on the web through the very unusual surname of Razran. (Is it indeed that unusual? Well, one website I searched told me it had found 6 living people with that name (all my relatives) and another found 126 Latin alphabet records of various kinds with it (probably all relating to my relatives or family) as compared to 11 million plus change records for Stone. Mine was by no means a small family, but, around 1941, the Germans took care of the rest of us.

Remeeting these cousins finally provides me compensation due for having been teased as a child by being called "Raspberry," and "Raisin!" (Although, even then I realized there were a lot more painful things to be teased about!)

My newly encountered cousin on the Razran side told me she had always assumed that her mother's family had had their name doctored in Ellis Island. No way! My father, the head of the family at that point, though he was only 19, would not have stood for it! Indeed, he was very disappointed with his only brother who changed his name to Rosen as being more

"American," sometime after emigrating. I cannot blame my cousin for the assumption that we were not originally Razran. She had been told by her own father, shortly before his death, that his surname was not really his at all, but something his father had taken over from a dead man who had already served in the tsar's, or perhaps Polish, army. Such are the stories that my people brought, along with their skimpy baggage, to the New World. Surely this is more startling than the relatively common practice of being renamed by Ellis Island officials.

My father had no idea, precisely, where our peculiar name came from but hypothesized it was Middle-Eastern, probably Khazar, because of its similarity to the city Nazran. I started using Razran in formal situations after my father died because I thought I was the only bearer of it in my generation. What I didn't know was that one small subset of my relatives were on the last evacuation train from our ancestral messtechko (aka stetl) to Leningrad before the Germans arrived. The scion of that family and his wife would eventually emigrate to the US bringing with them two sons – accounting for 4 of the other extant Razrans. These young men (of my grandchildren's generation) now bear the responsibility of keeping the name going into the next generation, but, sadly, have not yet done so.

When, during the dark ages, I married my first husband, William Hooke, no one even thought of keeping a maiden name. Later when I got divorced, the judge in Colorado did not allow women to change to a surname different from their children's. Although, as they tell me, I am grievously prone to indulging in long and unnecessary explanations, when I married my current husband, I could not face the complication of having to explain to everyone I knew, that, because I had married a man named Stone, I had changed my name from Hooke to Razran. Instead, I took his. In



compensation, for the first time in my life I had a surname that was neither unknown and unrecognizable in origin nor clearly inappropriate to my own ethnic heritage. However, although my current name, Stone, prompts many people in the know to identify me, correctly, as of Eastern European Jewish stock, actually my husband's WASP family brought it to the US from England in the seventeenth century.

In the unlikely event that anyone has the curiosity left to wonder about my first name: My belief is that Lydia was a compromise between my mother's first choice (Claudia) and my father's (Lyudmila). However, considering the flak that Hillary Clinton received for claiming her mother had named her after Sir Edmund Hillary (a temporal impossibility since she was born before he became a person of note) I do not claim this origin to be a fact.

Speaking of flak, John Riedl has sent me a link (see cnn.com) to a broadcast, which included the sole piece of Slavic translation related news coming out of the flak the current administration is getting about possible dubious contacts with Russian officials. Carter Page, a bit player in the Trump campaign, described as a former campaign advisor, seems to be on record in various televised interviews as saying that he had never spoken to Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak for more than 10 seconds after previously having both denied and refused to deny that he had ever had a meeting with him. He has also been unclear on the extent of his previous meetings with the current US President. On a March 3 interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper, Page attempted to attribute the inconsistency in his answers to the fact that the poor soul is confused by the fact that he speaks fluent Russian and at any given time randomly interprets the word *meeting* as meaning, well, meeting or, alternatively, as referring to the Russian word *митинг*, which means only "rally." Perhaps the readers of *Lite*, virtually all of whom speak at least two different languages, should bone up on borrowings and false cognates, so as to have on hand a ready supply of alibis and excuses, in addition to our tired old monolingual ones, such as the dog ate my homework (substitute name of other document under discussion).

Finally, a blast from the past: decades ago, perhaps as early as 1999, my friend Laura Wolfson, one of the best writers and translators ever to join the SLD, while still a relative novice in the field, received a letter from a professor asking her to translate a work of his solely for the glory of having her name associated with it... and him. Laura, far from flattered, complained to me about this offer as emblematic of a certain attitude

that the labor of literary translators is not worth the hire. The next morning I awoke to find the nucleus of the following poem in my head. It was printed in Mark Herman's humor column in *The Chronicle*, and after all this time I feel moved to reprint it here.

An Open Letter from a Literary Translator

Dear Professor von Fiddledeedee,
Please don't ask me to translate for free:
To spend my whole day
At hard work for no pay.
After all, would you do so for me?

Yes, your resume's brilliant and long
And I'm sure that your poems are strong.
I applaud your success.
Should I settle for less?
If you think so, dear sir, you are wrong!

Your mechanic, your dentist, your maid
For their labor expect to be paid.
So why should you feel
I don't rate the same deal,
When words are my sole stock in trade?

You have promised to cite me by name
And urge me to work for that fame.
But writers who pay
Cite my name anyway,
So I'm not too impressed by that claim.

Now, professors get perks that are sweet
And but rarely must sleep on the street.
Thus, your poverty plea
Is quite wasted on me;
For a translator, too, has to eat!

I've no doubt you've a student or two
Who'd be flattered to translate for you.
But such folk, as a class,
Are beginners. Alas!
That "you get what you pay for" is true!

I agree: we should all do our part
And sacrifice lucre for art!
Noble sentiment! Fine!
You for yours! I for mine!
Since the idea's yours, why don't you start?

P.S. I have just read in a book review in the *Washington Post* that Trotsky (yes, *the* Trotsky) applied for a visa to the US, listing as his reason for visiting a desire to tour Civil War battlefields. Evidently he was planning to write a play on the subject, which he reckoned would be a smash hit. Even in our highly improbable time, some aspects of what is apparently the truth, astonish us as being stranger than fiction!

To repeat what I say virtually every year: Happy Spring, readers!

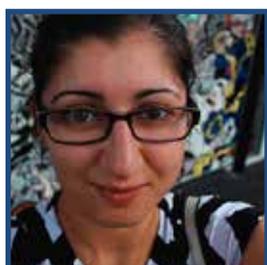
Why Get a Degree in Translation?

Perspectives from Kent State students

From the editors: This year in SlavFile we are highlighting various resources that help translators improve their performance and boost their careers and businesses. What could be a more appropriate resource to discuss than a graduate course in translation? Having noted among our new members a group of impressively competent and willing young (to our aging eyes at least) women who had all recently attended or were currently attending the Kent State University Translation Master's Program, we asked them to share their experiences with us and our readers, which you can read about below. We recommend this article not only to newcomers wondering about the benefits of such programs, but also to "oldcomers" like ourselves who have managed all these years without the benefits of such an advantage, which is not to say we are not envious.



The Master's in Translation degree at Kent State University is a two-year program. The coursework includes four translation practice courses (general, legal/financial, literary, and scientific/medical/technical), required courses covering translation theory, CAT tools, and localization, and three elective courses. Graduates also complete a case study requiring translation, terminology management, and an analysis incorporating translation theory. Below, five students of the program give their take on why they chose to pursue the degree.



Maria Guzenko
native Russian speaker
class of 2012

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Many humanities majors will remember wondering just what to do with their degree on the job market. In my final year of studies, I was afraid my degree in Linguistics/ Intercultural Communication from Moscow State University, despite its rigorous language and writing coursework, might fail to provide me with a marketable skillset. Since I had undertaken several translation jobs, usually referred to me through my university, and had taken a course in Introduction to Translation Theory, translation was one of the "practical" degrees I considered. I had long wanted to study abroad, so I researched and applied to degree programs in the US and Europe in the hope of receiving formal, comprehensive training in translation. Thanks to its manageable application process, a Russian-language combination (relatively rare in the US!), and

financial support options, Kent State was the school I ended up attending.

What I appreciated most about the program was its emphasis on research and workflow skills. Its translation technology training, for example, aimed not to teach the students the ins and outs of specific, soon-to-be-obsolete software, but to acquaint them with a wide range of features and usage scenarios, which would then be transferable to newer or alternative tools. The program also examined the purpose of translation in society, its functioning in various non-literary genres, and the criteria of a good translation. This helped me become deliberate in my choices and ask the right questions.

While the program included practice courses in specific subject areas, these were usually centered around workshopping a sample text each week. This was different from the little translation training I received in Russia, where specific translation strategies were discussed down to parts of speech and lexical choices. I wish the Kent program had taught

SLAVFILE INVITES GRADUATES

of Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey or any other program that has helped them succeed as language professionals to contribute similar articles to the one above.

Descriptions of negative experiences if they may prove helpful to others are also solicited.

me to translate specific terminology and text types for each field, although I realize it may be impossible to cover all of them in two years. Instead, the program gives the students an overview, and they can fill in any gaps after graduation, once they are working in their chosen field.

Another challenge for me was that our translation assignments were exclusively Russian to English, because that was the language direction the faculty was qualified to teach. As ATA best practices call for translators to work into their first language, I had to hone my Russian writing skills and research authoritative Russian sources after graduation. On the plus side, non-native English speakers received many opportunities to improve their English writing.

All in all, the program equipped me with the research and business skills needed to work as a freelance translator. As a bonus for new translators, many Kent alumni work in the language industry, and this network of colleagues is instrumental in finding translation work. Like any university program, Kent State's Master's in Translation can only teach you so much in two years, but it has been invaluable in furthering my career. Even though I had to learn a few things "on the job," isn't that true for any line of work?



Natalie Mainland
native English speaker
class of 2016
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I became a translator almost by accident. I graduated from college with a B.A. in Russian language and no idea what to do next. I only knew three things: I liked writing, I liked languages, and I wanted to do something involving them. I went to a pop-culture convention in 2012 and had the chance to hear a Japanese translator give a talk on experiences in the industry and a bit about the translation process, and that's when it struck me: *this is what I want to do*. At that point, I knew next to nothing about how the translation industry worked, or what a typical translator's workday looked like. I'd never translated anything. In short, I knew I wanted to be a translator, but I also knew that I didn't know how to be a good one. So I started looking for training programs.

There aren't many Russian translation programs in the US, so that narrowed my choices quite a bit. In the end, I picked Kent State for several reasons. First, it was affordable. Second, the curriculum wasn't literature-focused—although a literary translation course is included, most coursework centers on other subjects.

Third, a look at the alumni page on the program website showed me that the Russian track at Kent was well-established. And, finally, the Ohio climate played a role—summers in the south are just too hot for me!

When I started the program, the biggest surprise was that most of my classmates already had extensive experience translating professionally. As someone who didn't, I was rather intimidated. However, I quickly realized that no matter what our individual levels of experience were, we were all there because we knew we had something to learn.

For someone like me, a native English speaker with no industry experience at all, the degree program was helpful in more ways than one. I'm reasonably tech-savvy, but I'd never used Trados or had to troubleshoot font-encoding issues. I also had no idea about terminology management or translation theory—and, although I'll never be asked by a client to explain Vinay and Darbelnet's seven translation procedures, this theoretical background gave me a much better understanding of the translation process (i.e., I understood *why* I was doing what I was doing, and how to make appropriate translation choices). I also had the chance to do an internship with a language service provider, which taught me what project managers like (and don't care for!) in their linguists and in turn helped me to be a better one. Beyond that, the detailed feedback I received on all of my translations definitely pushed my work to a higher level of quality.

All in all, I think the program was worthwhile. I'm not certified yet, so having that master's degree has helped set me apart, and I've gotten work because of it. I also know that my translations are much better than they would have been otherwise. I'm proud to be a Kent State graduate.



Eugenia Tietz-Sokolskaya
native speaker of both
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I realized I wanted to be a translator while still a sophomore at a small liberal-arts college, where my opportunities to learn about the field were limited. I was supposed to count my blessings that there was one translation course (during which I had the realization mentioned above) and a full-fledged linguistics department. Most of what I found out about translation and the realities of the industry came from my own mistakes. While I struggled through laughably low-paying projects, I heard

tales of real translation agencies, of translation software, and of translators who earned enough to support themselves. Since I didn't want to be stuck at the bottom of the food chain forever, I started looking into translation Master's programs as a way to break into those higher levels of the translation market.

Given my goals, Kent State's program fit my needs perfectly. I had the chance to see and work with the translation software I'd heard about without having to shell out a fortune to get my own copy. From daily conversations with instructors and fellow students, I learned more than I'd ever thought I wanted to know about interacting with clients and building myself up as a professional translator. I was downright ridiculed for the rates I had previously charged—and although that stung, when combined with the feedback I received in class it gave me a better sense of how much I was worth. That, in turn, gave me the confidence to negotiate more aggressively with clients and to successfully attempt the ATA certification exam. And even if I had not passed the exam, the degree by itself would still have caught the eye of potential employers.

Of course, several factors converged to make the experience more pleasant and worthwhile than it could have been. An assistantship meant that in addition to a free education, I received free teaching experience and a small stipend. I had prior experience in translation, both in industry and academia, so a lot of the material we covered was already familiar. Finally, being a native speaker of both Russian and English, I had a head start on the mechanics of translation and an easier time discussing and defending my translation choices.

And sure, I had to spend a semester learning about software localization, and several semesters focused on terminology management, both of which I am unlikely to need to know in such depth ever again. As I see it, that was a small price to pay for the knowledge and confidence the program instilled in me as I make the transition from student to professional.

Czech-into-English Translator Needed

A publisher of academic journals is looking for a native English speaker qualified to translate scholarly articles in the field of psychology from Czech into English. Please submit resumes to: Irina.C.Burns@taylorandfrancis.com



Lauren Cammenga
native English speaker
class of 2017 (expected)
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I majored in Russian language and area studies as an undergrad and spent two years living in Russia. I decided to apply for graduate programs in translation because that was something I had been playing around with and enjoyed. I knew I wanted to pursue a master's degree, so I applied to Kent State University and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, which are the only two programs in the country to offer Master's degrees in translation (as opposed to translation studies). I chose Kent first because of its emphasis on translation over interpreting, and second because I was offered a graduate assistantship.

I had experience in translation, but not in the industry, before attending Kent. I think this worked out fairly well for me, as Kent gave me the opportunity to learn about the industry before deciding where I wanted to fit into it. On the other hand, this meant I have been more stressed during my second year as I try to figure out where I want to go with my degree. I definitely think being a native English speaker was an advantage, as our practice courses all require translating into English, and this meant I was always translating into my L1. It also meant I did not have to adjust to a different educational system, something I watched some of my colleagues struggle with. At the same time, had I not previously lived in Russia for two years, I am not certain my Russian would have been up to par for some of the more difficult texts we tackled in our practice courses.

The program has fulfilled my expectations for the most part. I have found the translation practice courses to be extremely helpful, because they allow us to translate texts in a wide variety of fields and with a number of challenges and to receive feedback from experts. Our technology courses have also been useful, particularly the practical aspects of learning how to navigate CAT tool use. In addition, I found the community at the Institute for Applied Linguistics to be one of the best aspects of the program. My professors are knowledgeable and always available to help, and my colleagues in the program are invaluable resources. Some of those colleagues are now among my closest and most trusted friends.

There are a few downsides. Some classes are difficult to navigate because of the students' wildly differing skill levels; the practice and technology

courses are not well integrated; and the curriculum could benefit from an update. However, overall, the program is one I would recommend.



Anna Katikhina
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I'd worked as a translator for approximately 10 years before coming to Kent. At that point in your career, you don't just wake up one day and think, "Why don't I go back to school and study the exact same thing I've learned through practice over the past 10 years?" So why did I decide to apply for the program in the first place? Two reasons: first, I was moving to the US and wanted a degree from an American university to improve my chances of finding new clients in the US. Second, I've learned that in the translation industry all sorts of credentials matter, so you never know when that master's degree will tip the scale in your favor. And third, there was a chance of getting an assistantship and studying at no cost.

Apart from my work experience I also had a bachelor's degree in Linguistics from Russia. That, by the way, wasn't really helpful with the classwork.

My overall impression of the program was beyond any expectations. Before I started, I thought there was nothing about translation I didn't know. I must admit

that, indeed, many things, such as CAT tools and localization, weren't new to me, but even those classes helped me to systematize what I already knew and allowed me to try my hand at things I never had a chance to do before, such as aligning translation memories and creating full-fledged term bases. The classes I benefited the most from were, of course, the translation practice courses. Although, as a native speaker of Russian I don't intend to translate professionally into English (except perhaps for back translation), these classes helped me gain a better understanding of word selection in English and generally taught me the invaluable skills of making meaningful choices and justifying them. These skills, by the way, are very handy every now and then when I am editing someone else's translation or defending my own approaches when the customer is insisting on something that is in the corporate glossary, but doesn't make sense.

I was also impressed by the program's efforts to help students find jobs. Throughout these two years the faculty shared dozens of job offers and organized numerous events with potential employers. That said, it's important to realize that in the translation industry you have the best chances of success as a freelancer. There aren't a whole lot of full-time translator jobs waiting to be filled out there, so the best thing you can do for your future career is use every opportunity to network.

LEXICOPHILS TAKE NOTE

HUUUGE COLLECTION OF R<>E DICTIONARIES AVAILABLE AT ROCK BOTTOM PRICES

From: Jack Slep: slep@ellijay.com



After 66 years as a Russian>English translator of 70 different scientific/technical journals, I'm retiring, more or less. I've cataloged my 511 R, R>E, E>R, R<>E, E<>R dictionaries, encyclopedias, glossaries, etc., on subjects from Astronomy to Zoology (earth, space, biological, medical, soil sciences, flora and fauna, finances, law, mathematics, physics, chemistry, agriculture, geotechnics, geography, cartography, metallurgy, proverbs/sayings/winged expressions/slang, and so forth, even oddballs such as periglacial geomorphology, folk

geographic and paleogeographic names, names of 3000 illustrated marine food fish species in 90 languages, and many more.

Since titles don't disclose full contents, the items are fully described with number of terms or pages and city and year of publication, dating from the 1950s to the very near-present, as a result of which the catalog/list is 63 pages long, divided into subject matter, e.g., Earth Science, Biological Science, Medical Science, Miscellaneous (Personal names, Food, Textiles, Photography/Cinematography, Patents, Plastics, Rubber, Fibers, Paper, Education, Professions, Diving, Hunting, Sex, Linguistics), and many more categories. At age 85, rather than try to take them with me (they'd probably burn!) or build a separate mausoleum for them, I'd like to sell them as a collection or separately. Any reasonable price (must cover postage) is acceptable. A reference book on hand is better than two hands on the keyboard searching.

Email address for more info or catalog/list:
slep@ellijay.com

CAT SCAN: Wordfast, a Trados Alternative

Kateryna Volobuyeva



Today many translators use computer-aided translation tools in their daily work. This is far from surprising: these tools offer time- and cost-effective solutions. And even those who don't use CAT tools have certainly at least heard of them. One of the most frequently used CAT tools is SLD Trados, since many translation companies require both in-house and freelance translators to use it. However, there are dozens of other CAT tools available, and I would like to talk here about Wordfast, which I have found to be a good alternative to Trados. I use both of them and thus am able to compare them on the basis of actual translation experience. The particular versions I will be comparing here are Trados Studio 2014 and Wordfast Pro 3.4 10. I use them with Windows 7 Corporate.

A general description of Wordfast tools and the advantages they offer is found on the official Wordfast site (Wordfast.com), so I will not repeat that information in depth here. I will simply say that there are Wordfast solutions designed for online and offline use, as well as server solutions for hosting online translation memories and glossaries, which can be used by several translators working simultaneously on the same project.

Here I would like to talk about my own observations and experience with the Wordfast Pro software that I use in my daily work.

One of the main advantages of Wordfast for me is ease of use — the user interface is friendly and doesn't contain too many unnecessary elements. As in Trados Studio, translation in Wordfast is performed in a bilingual table with the source text on the left side and

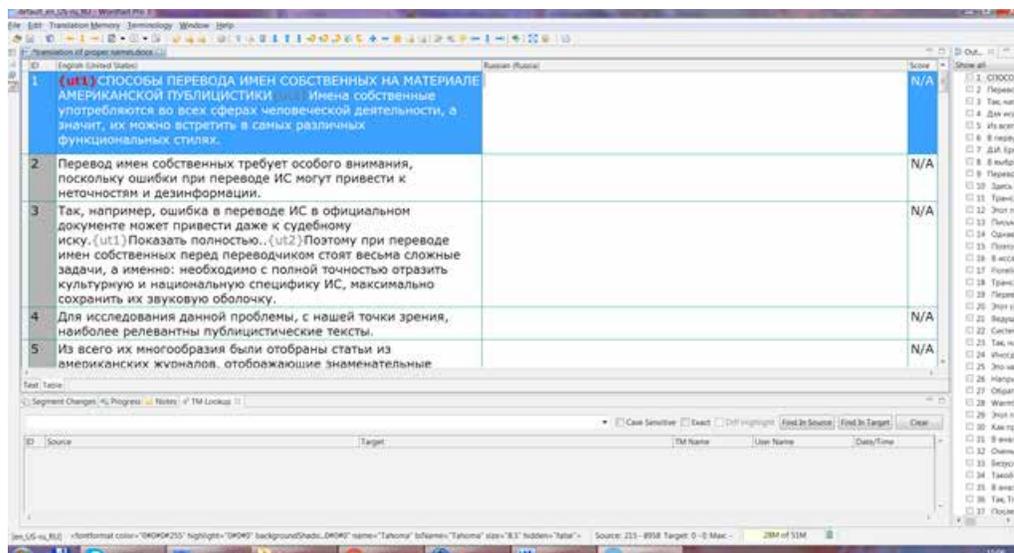
the target text on the right. The TM (translation memory) lookup tool is located at the bottom of the screen, and on the extreme right there is a list of all segments, which you can filter by status.

Those accustomed to working in Trados may find the location of the TM lookup window, as well as the hot key combinations, strange. For example, to confirm a segment in Wordfast, you need to be careful to press the left not the right Alt key. If you press the right one in combination with the down arrow key, your screen will turn upside down

Like the latest versions of SDL Trados Studio, Wordfast supports InDesign and PDF file formats. However, I have found that recognition of PDF files is more accurate in Wordfast than in Trados. Wordfast doesn't lose spaces between words in headers and preserves the format better than Trados. Both programs will generate a fair number of formatting tags if the file to be translated has a complicated format; however, unlike Trados, Wordfast numbers each (`{1}`, `{2}`...) tag, making it easier to check whether all tags have been preserved in your translation.

I have found that when I use Trados to translate a large file with a number of tags and want to generate a target file, I have to deal with large numbers of unjustified error messages related to the tags. I would think this annoying issue has affected other users too.

I have never experienced a problem similar to this in Wordfast. Indeed, the only error message I have



Wordfast Pro 3 user interface

Wordfast tags

Trados tags

ever gotten from Wordfast Pro was triggered by incompatibility of file formats when I tried to open an uneditable image file. I feel that Wordfast Pro is a more error-free and more stable CAT tool than Trados.

The Wordfast file format is fully compatible with Trados. You can simply translate a XLIFF file in Wordfast Pro then save it as an SDLXLIFF file, and Trados will have no trouble opening it. Unfortunately, this doesn't work the other way — Trados bilingual files cannot be opened in Wordfast. Wordfast can, however, save translation memory in .tmx format that can be used by Trados.

You will have a problem, though, if you receive a Trados project package from a customer and you use Wordfast, since it cannot open .sdlppx files. However, there is a solution: a Trados project package can be easily opened with any archiving utility — e.g. 7-Zip or a similar program. All you need to do is change the file extension from .sdlppx to .zip and then extract the .xliff file for translation in Wordfast. A Trados project package may also contain .sdltm and .sdltb files, a TM, and a termbase. But if you are a PC user, you can use a free tool called Wordfast Converter to convert these files into Wordfast-compatible formats.

Unfortunately Wordfast doesn't create project packages, so you won't be able to put your translated file, updated glossary, and TM into one "zip folder."

Sometimes the customer requires a large .xliff file to be translated on a very tight deadline, requiring the help of another translator. In this case, I could pass the file to my colleague and ask him or her to start translating from a particular segment. Alternatively, I can download the free SDL Xliff Split/Merge app from the SDL official website to break it into two parts. However Wordfast makes such situations easier — it has a built-in Split/Merge function, so you don't have to remember the name of the app to use each time you need to split a file.

One more point in favor of Wordfast — it requires less physical memory than Trados for working with large files. It may, however, be a bit slow when working with a server TM, depending on the speed of your Internet connection. In addition, the size of the translation memory files generated by Wordfast is measured in kilobytes not megabytes because Wordfast saves translation memory in .txt format, which is more compact than the .sdltm memory files generated by Trados. This is crucial when you have about 200-300 projects monthly, as our company does, and store your TMs on your computer.

The last but not the least important advantage of Wordfast is its cost. Wordfast is less expensive than Trados — 400 Euro vs. 695 Euro. The newest version of Wordfast is provided free to existing license users; it requires only downloading and installing. SDL Trados Studio, on the other hand, charges a discounted price for updates from older to newer versions.

To sum up, I find Wordfast to be easier to use than Trados. It produces errors less frequently when you work with large files or with files full of tags, needs less internal storage space and is compatible with Trados bilingual files and translation memory files. It is also a cheaper solution than Trados, and all Wordfast upgrades are offered at no charge.

Kateryna Volobuyeva is a Russian and Ukrainian translator and editor with 9 years of working experience. She is the author of a localization seminar for Russian translators (<http://s.tran.su/product/seriya-vebinarov-lokalizatsiya-s-nulya/>) and two dictionaries (English<>Russian and English<>Ukrainian) published by Star Books (<http://www.starbooksuk.com>). She and her husband run Translate ON, an online translation company (contact: office@translate-on.com).

Helpful and/or Interesting Resources Discovered by SlavFile Editors and Readers

From Nora Seligman Favorov, SlavFile associate editor:

Please send your own Web Watch suggestions to norafavorov@gmail.com. Links of interest having to do with technical, medical, financial, literary or any other sort of Slavic<>English translation are welcome.

For students of Russian literature and literary translation (surely *SlavFile* has more than a few readers falling into these categories), Web Watch offers two articles, one less than a year and the other slightly less than a decade old, that put a magnifying glass to old and new translations of works by Tolstoy.

The more recent of the two is by Janet Malcolm and appeared in *The New York Review of Books* in June, 2016. She considers the (regrettable in her opinion) toppling of Constance Garnett from her sturdy perch as the queen of Russian>English literary translation by Pevear and Volokhonsky:

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2016/06/23/socks-translating-anna-karenina/>

This article generated an equally interesting series of responses defending some of the translations Malcolm criticizes (included at the end of the web page).

The ten-year-old piece was written for the *New York Sun* by the late Robert Belknap (October, 2007). His review uses a few excerpts, this time from *War and Peace*, to compare the translation approaches of Garnett, the Maudes, Tony Briggs (our 2008 Greiss lecturer), and Pevear/Volokhonsky:

<http://www.nysun.com/arts/society-asunder/64684/>

If these articles make you curious as to how much different translations of Tolstoy really differ, see page 14 of this issue of *SlavFile*.

From Ekaterina Howard, SLD administrator:

Again, I would like to recommend to readers some materials I have found on the Internet.

This may be of interest to practice group members, but also to those SLD members who review translations of others:

<https://hbr.org/2017/01/how-to-deliver-criticism-so-employees-pay-attention>

Although it is intended for “traditional” teams that constantly work together, some of the points that are made are valid even for “one-off” text reviews.

These two articles concern making review part of the translation process (and not something that happens as an afterthought) and making sure you get it right:
www.tcworld.info/e-magazine/technical-communication/article/a-strategic-approach-to-reviewing/, and

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/what-translation-error-ana-mar%C3%ADa-z%C3%BAniga>

Dear *SlavFile* readers, how do you help others grow professionally, or how do you use feedback to grow?

I mentioned an article by Kate Toon on using Fiverr in my last column. Since then, Natalie Soper and Hannah Keet have published an “I hired a translator on Fiverr” series of articles:

<https://bellinqua.co.uk/2017/03/01/using-fiverr-for-translations-part1/> (part 1) and
<https://hannahkeet.co.uk/2017/03/01/fiverr-do-you-get-what-you-pay-for-part-2/> (part 2).

I have really enjoyed reading the posts, and think that it would be nice for the SLD members to go on a translation “shopping spree” for Slavic languages (terribly biased, I’m sure – see the off-topic follow-up on the articles on the Fiverr forum <https://forum.fiverr.com/t/fiverr-advertising-campaign-photos-dubbed-depressive/113030/20>). Please get in touch if you are interested in organizing such an experiment.

Some random additional links and resources that might be of interest:

- A wonderful article from Devon Smiley on avoiding project delays and mitigating rework requests:
www.devonsmiley.com/blog/increase-profit-avoid-project-delays
- A self-guided course for getting things done (on my to-do list, for when I can focus on getting a focus):
https://app.convertkit.com/landing_pages/173804?v=6
- And, to end on a more cheerful note, a “Серебряный дождь” episode on Russian words that we love to hate:
www.silver.ru/programms/utro-pod-serebryanim-dozhdem/editions-of-the-program/materials-Kulturasovremennoyrechislovakotoryerazdrzhayut/

Elena Sheverdinova calls the blog at
http://gab-garevoi.narod.ru/inoslova_v_russkom.html
a “priceless” resource. It keeps track of Americanisms in Russian today.

SEND SUGGESTIONS FOR WEB WATCH TO *Nora Seligman Favorov* (norafavorov@gmail.com)

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***** ANYTHING THAT HELPS! *****

**We are looking for contributions 400 words or less telling us
about your wonderful discovery.**

Send to Lydia Stone (lydiastone@verizon.net) by July 1.