From the STIBC President’s Laptop

By Stefanie Kennell

All of us know about the Society’s mission to some extent. The statement on our webpage of course says that STIBC exists to promote the interests of translators and interpreters, to serve the public by requiring observance of a Code of Ethics, and to set/maintain high professional standards through education and certification.

But what does this mean in practical terms? With so many of us still confined to our homes by Covid-19 restrictions, this is something we can think about constructively. Why? Because our mission is relevant not only to what STIBC has been and is, but to what it—and you—can be in the future.

At present, the Society continues to profit from comparatively steady member numbers (and higher revenues, thanks to last year’s fee increase), the Federal Government rent relief program, and our Zoom account. The Board started to use Zoom a couple of years ago to enable members outside Vancouver and colleagues throughout Canada to participate in meetings. We are still doing that, thanks (!) to Covid-19, but Zoom has also opened up a host of new possibilities for connecting people with common needs and interests. These include offering/taking examinations (entrance, practice and CTTIC certification), presenting/taking workshops and webinars, and (in the not too distant future, we hope) facilitating the development of language- and/or area-specific discussion groups for STIBC members.

What of the future, in light of Covid-19 and any other challenges that could arise? The majority of Certified Members are over 50 and not getting any younger. At the same time, the number of newer translators and interpreters obtaining certification is not large enough to ensure automatic replacement of older members as they retire. For the good of the profession, we Certified Members have a duty to encourage younger people to take an interest in translation and interpretation, to acquire the training and experience necessary to gain certification, and to keep renewing and upgrading their knowledge and skills.
As for technology, some of us are having to adapt to CAT (Computer Assisted Translation) software, a proven help to professional translators, particularly with large-volume, boilerplate-filled texts. A greater challenge, though, is dealing with the rise of neural machine translation (NMT), a constantly evolving artificial intelligence (AI) technology exemplified by Google Translate and Baidu Translate that has now been embraced by Canada’s Translation Bureau. NMT’s users believe that it can create generally accurate renderings all by itself. Even so, they must still resort to the services of human beings to review and “post-edit” the translations NMT produces because only humans can grasp the subtleties of language—tone, register, context, and idiom—that make a translation accurate and expressive. Maintaining and expanding our skills and increasing our awareness of our responsibilities as language professionals are essential if we want to preserve our profession and serve the public.

Responding to the challenges posed by pandemics and technological change is a practical necessity. To conduct ourselves professionally, as expert linguists known for fair and honourable behaviour that adheres to STIBC’s Code of Ethics, is a moral obligation. Ethical behaviour can be expressed in various ways in the course of our activity as interpreters and translators, regardless of whether we are Associate or Certified Members. Obvious examples include treating all clients with respect, producing work of the highest possible quality, and charging reasonable fees (neither too high nor too low) for the services provided (see STIBC Bylaws Part 14, Code of Ethics 81-94).

But the following principles may be less familiar (Code of Ethics 95):

- “(1) Members shall refrain from unfair tactics in the practice of their profession.
- (2) Members shall act towards their colleagues in a spirit of mutual cooperation, as well as assist and encourage beginners in the profession.”

These statements apply especially to Certified Members. The first restricts bad behaviour—translators and interpreters must avoid doing anything dishonourable or biased—while the second asserts a positive duty to collaborate, help, and support. They forbid us to derive advantage from injustice or superior professional status and instruct us to assist colleagues to make progress in the profession, not least those who are younger and/or less experienced.

In practical terms, how each of us fulfills that duty will depend on our talents and interests. We might offer workshops and webinars in our areas of expertise and experience; or mentor individual Associate Members working in our language combinations; or serve STIBC as Board Members, on committees, or with special projects; or (at CTTIC’s request) safeguard the validity of the CTTIC certification process by marking examinations accurately, fairly, and consistently.

What we mustn’t do is sit on our hands, or imagine that someone else will pop up to take care of these tasks. Gaining, maintaining, and enhancing the status of our profession and our accomplishments as individual practitioners come with both benefits and responsibilities. Achieving certification for yourself is unquestionably a vital goal that opens many official doors; it is not, however, the end of the game. Helping others become certified and keep improving their skills is just as important. Yes, these things take time and thought and effort—because they’re worthwhile!

Stefanie Kennell, Ph.D., C.T.
Certified Translator, Greek to English
President, STIBC Board of Directors, 2019-2021
Newly Certified Members via CTTIC Exams and On Dossier

The following results, which were received during the first three and a half months of 2021, are final as of the date of publication of this edition of the STIBC Voice. Any results received after that date will be published in our next edition.

CTTIC Exams

Translation
Amir Bajehkian: English > Farsi
Laurie Bennett: French > English
Dina Daraie: Farsi > English
Farzan Sojoodi: Farsi > English
Silvia Xalabardé: Italian > English

Community interpreting
Hou Ian Lei: Cantonese <> English
Jie (Jessica) Fan: Mandarin <> English

On Dossier Applications

Court interpreting
Trang Nguyen: Vietnamese <> English
Hari Tatlay: Punjabi <> English

Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming STIBC Webinars

1. English to French Translation: Ensuring Quality in Translation

About the Workshop: This two-hour workshop is intended for translators of all levels working into French. It aims to encourage practice of one’s own quality assurance in translation or proofreading. You will be introduced to some of the criteria used to evaluate translations in various contexts. You will be made aware of common errors through short, authentic translations. Finally, a text of approximately 60 words will be sent for translation a few days in advance to give you the opportunity to perform a quality check on one of your own translations. Active and respectful participation of all will be encouraged.

When: April 29, 2021 (Thursday), 4:00-6:00pm.

About the Instructor: Fabienne Garlatti, C.T. has been involved in the language industry for the past 20 years. She learned the ropes of translation and editing by working for an agency before moving on to the corporate world. She now runs her own practice. She has lived and worked in France, England, Italy and Western Canada and is a STIBC member currently based in Montreal.

2. Ergonomic Basics and Postural Hygiene

About the Workshop: During this one-hour webinar, gain a better understanding of what can influence your posture when working in front of a screen. Learn how to modify your working environment, what you can do to avoid injuries, and how to contact a professional if you face a specific ergonomic problem.

When: May 4, 2021 (Tuesday), 6:00-7:00pm.

About the Instructor: Catherine Trudel is an Occupational Therapist with 15 years of experience assessing individuals and their work stations.

Price (for each): STIBC Members: $30, Members of other translation/interpreting associations: $45.
STIBC’s New Website

STIBC’s new website went live a few days ago, this April, after many months of preparation. It was time for the 15-year-old site to be retired and for a fresh new look and feel to be introduced. As a result of the Board of Directors listening to comments and suggestions from both members and clients, the new site is responsive and will adapt to tablets and smart phones as well as desk- and laptop computers. The directories are more obvious (in fact, you can’t miss them!) and the language combinations listed are based on what is actually available, rather than theoretical choices that lead to “no results”. We hope clients will find it easier and faster to find language professionals as a result of these improvements. As always, a major undertaking like this does not go live without a few glitches, so if you see anything that still needs adjusting, please send your comments to executive@stibc.org or office@stibc.org.

CTTIC-Negotiated Advantages for its Affiliate Members

1. Editors Canada

As a Certified Member of STIBC, you are also a member of the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC) by affiliation. This allows you to use the Editors Canada member rate for their online conference Editors 21: Editors Transform, which is $399 (before April 26) or $499 after. This means you can save up to $100 on the registration fee for a weekend of learning, networking and fun.

The conference will be held online during the weekend of June 12 and 13, 2021: https://www.editors.ca/professional-development/conference/2021/registration. This is Editors Canada’s first online conference, and it opens up exciting possibilities of something for everyone: Enjoy access to 40 sessions and many networking opportunities.

Inspiriting keynotes:

--Amanda Leduc is an author and disability rights activist. Her new novel, The Centaur’s Wife (Random House Canada 2021), is now available.

--Joshua Whitehead is a Two-Spirit, Oji-nêhiyaw member of Peguis First Nation (Treaty 1). He is a PhD candidate, lecturer, Killam scholar at the University of Calgary, and the award-winning author of Jonny Appleseed (Arsenal Pulp Press 2018).

Don’t miss a thing: All conference sessions will be recorded so you won’t have to choose between sessions during the conference weekend. You’ll be able to watch the recording of any conference session until September 30, 2021!

2. Magistrad

Thanks to a partnership with CTTIC, Magistrad is offering a training discount of 15% to STIBC members on any online Magistrad course, whether synchronous or asynchronous, until June 30, 2021. Although many of their Continuing Education activities are offered in French, there are also courses in English or Spanish.

For asynchronous courses (those that may be followed at any time), go to https://magistrad.didacte.com/, create an account and enter the promotional code PROMO-CTTIC. For synchronous courses (real time only), go to http://magistrad.com/calendrier.php, select a course, and register specifying Promotion CTTIC – STIBC in the Comments box.

You will find extracts of Magistrad courses on their YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbc4sUKBa2uafokVSwCF2rQ. New courses may be added to Magistrad’s calendar any time. To be kept abreast, be sure to subscribe to Magistrad’s mailing list at http://magistrad.com/#Bulletin or follow Magistrad on Twitter or Facebook.
Interview Series IX: Interview with ATIS President Monica Cliveti

By Angela Fairbank

1. Translator, Terminologist, Interpreter— which of these three professions do you identify with and what is/are your language combination(s)?

I definitely identify myself with the profession of Translator. I tend to be quiet and shy most of the time and translating in my own space is where I feel most comfortable. However, lately I have found myself stepping a little bit more into the interpreting scene and I quite enjoy it.

2. Please provide a brief synopsis of your education—including language education—and background related to how you came to be a Translator, Interpreter or Terminologist. For example, immersion in foreign countries and culture, university

definitely help along the way. For example, the first conference I participated in was in Finland. My friends and I hitchhiked most of the way there, crossing multiple countries in a few days: Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Finland. It reminded me of the movie Planes, Trains and Automobiles. For us, though, it was only automobiles—from trucks to luxury vehicles—and trains. We did also try to take a plane but we didn’t have enough money. My knowledge of Russian—poor at that time—got us out of some pretty dire situations in Belarus and Ukraine on the way back!

Now living in Regina, I fill my free time by taking classes in French and Spanish, a welcome change from geology. But why now?

As I mentioned before, I was fairly shy and timid as a child, and being able to understand and communicate with other people was fascinating for me. Learning a new language is relatively easy for me and like everything that comes easy, you tend not to give it too much importance.

education, mentorship/menteeship, internship, etc.

Well, there’s nothing brief about how I came to be a Translator! I have loved learning languages ever since I was a child, but life took me on a very torturous journey to be where I am today.

To explain my fascination with foreign languages, I shall give you a sketch of my background. I was born and raised in Romania, and as part of the school curriculum during that time, I was obliged to take two foreign language classes. Consequently, my formal education in foreign languages started with French and Russian. As a help to my learning, all our TV programs had subtitles, so I could hear the original language and read the Romanian subtitles. This is a feature, I must admit, I miss here in Canada. As a result, I was immersed from a very early age into the wonderful universe of languages, even if travelling outside of Romania was almost impossible at that time. During my school years, I had pen pals in Magadan, Russia, and writing compositions in a different language was my way of travelling to all those amazing places.

After the fall of the communist regime, the borders of Romania were opened up and I was finally allowed to travel, something I would take full advantage of during my university years when I went to study in Italy (in Italian), in China (in English), in Austria (in English) and finally in Regina, Canada (in English). Moreover, I participated in every single student conference I was able to register for, and being able to understand and read some of the languages of countries I have been through helped me a great deal.
In Regina, after I was married, my husband and I started the process of adopting two children from Romania, which required compiling a number of documents. We desperately needed a translator for it all. We obtained some amazing support from a translator in Canada, and my husband and I will be forever grateful to this amazing lady! That experience put another seed in my mind. If I could use my language skills to help somebody else, why wouldn’t I? I therefore registered to write the Associate-level exam at the very last minute since the exam was the following day. I passed and became an Associate Translator with no clue about what to do with my certificate or where to start building my client base. Over time, I slowly began to learn the ropes of the business. Later, I wrote the certification exam and here I am now, a Certified Translator.

3. How long have you been working in your chosen profession?

I have been a Geologist for about 20 years and a language lover for almost 40. Officially, I have been a Certified Translator for a little more than a year.

4. Are you currently working in-house or as a freelancer? If you have had experience in both types of employment, which do you prefer?

I have been working as a freelancer only, so I can’t really talk about any in-house experience. I think, in a way, I would prefer to have an in-house position as it would offer me more stability. However, for the moment, it’s only a thought.

5. Where do you currently exercise your profession?

I currently reside just outside of Regina, Saskatchewan. As a Geologist, I offer courses in laboratory work at the University of Regina.

6. Are you certified in your profession? If so, by which certification organization(s), and for how long have you been certified now? If you are certified, once you became certified, did you notice your income increase slightly, moderately or substantially?

Yes, I am certified. I have been a Certified Translator since 2019, so really not that long. The irony is that the very day I received my result, I also received some work. Overall, for me, translation work has been fairly slow. Not a lot of people are looking for translations from English into Romanian, except perhaps my sister. She has been studying Management and Nursing, so I had the opportunity to translate numerous articles in both domains. It has been a pretty steep curve for me as a Geologist to learn the scientific terms used in management or nursing, but I love challenges and I consider this volunteer work for my sister as an intensive training workshop!

7. What have been some of the highlights of your career so far?

Which career are we talking about? My two careers are more intertwined than it might seem at first glance. As a Geologist some of my highlights have been study trips to some amazing places: China, Iceland, Colombia, Italy, Austria, and Canada. I used my language skills to communicate with people so as to reach out and understand their culture. As a language lover, I have used my languages skills to translate and interpret for people I did not know before but got to know through their stories. I suppose, too, that being able to help others in some way is what I love most about my translation career.

8. Have there been any particular challenges in your profession you would like to share with our readers?

Not really. So far, my challenges are all related to trying to run ATIS. But those are stories for another time.

9. What advice do you have for colleagues who are just starting—or thinking of starting—today?

Advice? I look at my profession and I love the helping aspect, which alone makes it worthwhile for me. For my colleagues thinking of starting, I would tell them they need to be patient. Work won't come their way all at once, especially if you translate in a rare language combination. It takes discipline, good ethics and a high quality of work, in addition to a great deal of luck. My advice would be always to do your best, take pride in what you do, and accept the huge responsibility of keeping all information confidential.

10. How do you combine your work as a Translator/Terminologist/Interpreter with that of Geologist and University Professor? What advice do you have for others who are juggling two or more careers at the same time?

So far, it has been relatively easy for me to combine my two loves. As I mentioned before, there are not a lot of people requiring translation from English to Romanian. This means that most of the time I am a Geologist and practicing this field and being an instructor at a university laboratory keep me pretty busy. From my own experience, I would say that if you are juggling two or more careers at the same time, it’s very important to set realistic deadlines to avoid burn-out. Make time for yourself and do something that makes you happy. In my case, it would be learning a new language!

11. As current President of ATIS—Association of Translators and Interpreters of Saskatchewan—could you please tell us a little bit about the association—i.e. how many members it has, when it was founded and please feel free to mention any particular achievements made during your time within the board of ATIS to help it grow and what challenges, if any, still need to be met.

ATIS was founded in 1980 with the aim of fostering the professional development of translators and interpreters in Saskatchewan. At present we have 33 certified members, 46 associate members and 3 affiliate members.

I was elected President of ATIS in November 2020 and we have a very ambitious plan to help it grow. In actual fact, the new board actually had a very challenging start. To start the year with a bang, we lost control of our email account due to some internal issues. Then, while we were dealing with that, we decided not to offer any associate-level exams in order to channel our energy into creating an association that our members could be proud of belonging to. So far, I am happy to say we have almost managed to get ATIS through these challenges. We can finally see light at the end of the tunnel, but we still have a great deal of work to accomplish to become the professional association we all wish for. For now, we have resumed offering exams and we are starting to work on our more ambitious plans to grow our association.

One of the challenges we still need to deal with is the apathy and unwillingness of members to become involved. If you have any ideas on how to get people involved in deciding the fate of their professional association, I would gladly listen to them.

12. Is there anything I missed that you would like to add?

Thank you for this opportunity to share my story. I am happy to belong to this big family and I am grateful for the tremendous support received from everyone at CTTIC and our sister associations while I learn the ropes of running ATIS.

Angela Fairbank, M.A., C.T.
STIBC-Certified Spanish to English Translator
ATA-Certified French to English Translator
Registrar, STIBC Board of Directors, 2019-2021
STIBC Voice Editor, 2019-2021
CTTIC Vice-President, 2019-2021
Changes to IRCC’s Website

By Stefano Gulmanelli

A couple of months ago, STIBC members received a notice advising them that there had been changes in the way IRCC assesses the legality of translations submitted to it in applications for Permanent Residency and others.


The highlights of this new IRCC policy (likely the largest recipient of translated documents submitted by private individuals in Canada) can be summarized as follows:

- Documents not in the official languages of Canada must be translated into English or French.
- Translations must be produced by Certified Translators, and only in cases where there is no Certified Translator in Canada for the language combination involved, may such certification be replaced by an affidavit of a non-certified translator.

Obviously, given this framework, the critical question is who can be considered as a Certified Translator.

The website itself provides the answer to this question in unequivocal terms:

"A Certified Translator is a member in good standing whose certification can be confirmed by a seal or stamp that shows the translator’s membership number of a professional translation association in Canada or abroad."

Focusing on the case where translations are carried out in Canada (by far the most common case of interest to our members), the provision states that: “applicants should use the services of a Certified Translator who is in good standing with their provincial or territorial organization.”

In Canada, STIBC and its sister societies are such professional associations. This means that, in essence, translators eligible to provide translations accepted by IRCC must be certified by one of these associations. Indeed, being an Associate member is not enough, as the website makes clear: "A translator who has not yet received certification or accreditation, but is in the process of receiving it, is not considered a Certified Translator for IRCC's purposes."

One point to be clarified is the use of Affidavits. Contrary to the claims of some notaries who write to STIBC claiming that the Affidavit replaces certification, the Affidavit comes into play ONLY—as the IRCC provision clearly states—“in situations where the translation cannot be provided by a Certified Translator.” Given the breadth of the range of languages covered by STIBC-certified members, this situation occurs in very limited cases in B.C. In any case, signing an affidavit with a notary is not optional but must be consequent to the failure of finding a Certified Translator either at STIBC or at any of STIBC’s sister-societies across Canada under the CTTIC umbrella in that particular language combination.

This IRCC stance—resulting from the stimulus work conducted by special committees formed within STIBC and at CTTIC—is a significant step away from the uncertainty and ambiguity that reigned until late 2020. Still, it is not perfect. Indeed when STIBC sent an update message to its members, the Liaison Committee received several reactions.

Most correspondents asked us for clarification, which we have tried to provide here. Others pointed out that there were still circumstances that could be considered as loopholes to the rule, for example, small agencies which use non-certified translators to keep costs down or due to the difficulty of proving that a Certified Translator was not available. As for the former, we cannot prevent behaviour that is against the spirit of the rule; that is IRCC’s responsibility. In terms of the latter, we may wish to consider that having a translation done by a non-certified translator (who, by the way, cannot be a relative) AND accompanied by an affidavit is arguably more expensive for a client than asking a Certified Translator to do the job.
To sum up, regardless of certain limitations, we on the STIBC board feel that this development represents an important step forward for our members since it increases job opportunities and helps enhance the fact that STIBC-Certified Translators are preferred suppliers to government and provincial agencies.

Stefano Gulmanelli, PhD. C.T.
Certified Translator, English to Italian
Director at Large, STIBC Board of Directors, 2018-2021

Five Strategies for Keeping Sane in Covid Times

By Silvia Xalabardé

1. Separate your personal and professional space.

You’ve probably made this resolution before but somehow it’s surprisingly easy not to keep to it and slide back into a work-life mush that leaves you feeling exhausted. Now that Covid gives us an excuse, it’s easy to sit on the couch and watch a movie while helping yourself to carrots and hummus with one hand and distractedly typing with the other. And come to think of it, what's the big deal if you answer a couple of quick work emails on your phone while having breakfast with your family and Zoom with a client from Europe last thing at night?

In the long-run, however, having no separation between work and leisure can result in low-productivity and a lingering feeling that your workday never really ends.

Having a designated workspace can be a sanity-saver and help you achieve more in less time. It’s great if you can choose a room in your house where you do work and nothing else. If there are other people around and your work room has a door and a lock, I suggest you use them both! If not, try at least to find a little corner where you can work undisturbed, and make it a nice and inviting space where you can enjoy spending time.

2. Make an effort to attend some online events.

I get it: Zoom Christmas parties drinking bubbly by yourself in front of the screen and meditation meetings on Skype are rarely as much fun as their real-life counterparts. After a while, it’s all too easy for you to let all optional get-togethers fall by the wayside and turn into a 24-hour pyjama monster with hair to match. However, making an effort to attend the maybe-not-so-awesome online choir practice or parent group (or translation workshop for that matter) can help you forget the cabin fever of your house and balcony and give you back a sense of connection that will help preserve your mental health.


It is B.C. and sometimes it rains (a lot!). Moreover, the whole social-distancing/masks/line-ups/fear can make even the thought of a small outing seem like an adventure trek that leaves us reaching for the comfort of the remote. However, now that spring is upon us and the days are getting longer, it’s a great time to start enjoying the great outdoors (and I don’t mean watching it on Netflix) and improving our physical and mental wellbeing in the process. Most of us are lucky enough to have access to amazing nature places. And on those inevitably rainy days, I find a walk around the neighbourhood with waterproof boots and an umbrella goes a long way towards making me feel more like a human and less like a translation robot.

4. Have someone to complain to.

Working as translators, we are all very familiar with impossible deadlines, formatting that looked great until we hit “Tab” and everything disappeared, and clients who complain about rates and say they could do it themselves if it weren’t for that pesky stamp requirement.

To minimize the impact of stress and isolation, it’s a good idea to try and find someone with whom you can share your work stories on a regular basis. Another translator is ideal, but failing that, any friend who works
from home will do. Arrange a call once or twice a day to tell them about the day's funny (and not so funny) incidents and stresses and laugh and commiserate about theirs. Translation does not always lend itself to teamwork, even at the best of times, so having a friend who empathizes with what you are going through can be a great outlet.

5. Do something you have always wanted to do.

After a year of Covid restrictions, many of us are left feeling that this time is all about resignation and making sacrifices for the good of all. This is why doing something you would not have done otherwise is a way of getting something back and making the best out of a bad situation. If there is one thin silver lining in this whole thing, it's having a bit more time for ourselves and the opportunity to use it well. Best not to think about this as an additional pressure (who else has writing the Great Canadian Novel on their to-do list?), but rather as a chance to break bad habits and try new things. Have you always wanted to read War and Peace, cook healthy meals, learn Italian, or play the guitar? Dive in! These things are not only good for the soul, but you can use them as incentives to stick-and-carrot your way through your daily word count. Activities like these can also be helpful for structuring otherwise amorphous days if you dedicate the same time period to them every day. Imagine if we all become Russian-novel-reading, guitar-playing, healthy Italophones: at least in this whole Covid mess we will have done something constructive!

Silvia Xalabardé, C.T.
Certified Translator, Spanish <> English, Italian>English
Vice-President, STIBC Board of Directors, 2020-2021

_Farteischt un Farbessert: Art and Techniques of Enhanced Translation_

_by Jonathan Orr-Stav_

Legend has it (and it's been retold so often, it's hard to know if there's any truth in it), that on the title page of a certain nineteenth-century translation of Shakespeare's writings into Yiddish, the translator (or publisher) added the subtitle, _Farteischt un Farbessert_ (“Translated and Improved”).

Of course, the idea that any translator, no matter how good, could “improve” on the Bard is a great example of Yiddish _chutzpah_ (possibly related to the German quip about how Shakespeare's writings are better in the original German). But when it comes to the writings of lesser mortals, there is indeed usually room for improvement: just because someone is an expert in their own field, doesn’t mean that they know how to express themselves coherently and well in writing.

At the start of my career as a professional translator of academic texts, some fourteen years ago, I asked my mentor (a noted translator and editor in her own right) how she handled a text that needed improvement or a correction of wording—i.e., whether she translated it as is, or improved it.

"I improve it," she told me emphatically, without hesitation. “That’s one of the reasons people come to me, instead of other translators.”

I’m so glad she said that because otherwise, I would have the painful task of leaving as is, texts which, when translated straight from the original, would read like this:

Incidentally, despite the assurance in the objective reality presented in Wilder's films, and the avoidance of presenting such a reality in _Rashomon_, by presenting contradicting testimonies, still a similarity exists between _Rashomon_ and films by Wilder [...] – they all deal with questions of moral responsibility. Therefore, the similarity and dissimilarity between _Rashomon_ and Wilder's films lead to the conclusion that various filmic techniques may bring about similar thematic.
Such translations, while accurate and faithful to the original, do no favours to the original’s author, who is presumably hoping either to persuade a prospective publisher that their material is worthy of publication, or (if publication is already assured) to convey their message intelligibly to their readers. As the translator and author Ken Liu aptly points out: “Translation is an act of recreation.” So with my mentor’s imagined blessing, I recreated the above passage as follows:

Notwithstanding the irrefutable nature of objective reality in Wilder’s films, and its deliberate obfuscation in *Rashomon* through contradictory testimonies, Wilder’s films [...] are similar, in that they all deal with questions of moral responsibility. This similarity and contrast between *Rashomon* and Wilder’s films demonstrate how different cinematic techniques can be used to highlight similar themes.

Of course, as a translator, you probably know all this already. Problems such as “spiral writing” (circling around an idea, instead of stating it simply), “mowing the lawn twice” (talking about something in one sentence, then restating it fully in the next, as though the reader had the memory of a goldfish), and “carpet-bombing” (desperately throwing a bunch of high-register words or phrases at the page, in the hope that one of them will hit the target), are common faults among many who have not been trained in coherent essay writing. Translating them verbatim only does the client a disservice. In some cases, it’s not about improving the writing *per se*, but rather adding a few explanatory words for the benefit of the foreign reader, who may not know what the author assumes is common knowledge.

Either way, one cannot just change the text willy-nilly: whenever one substantively changes the client’s wording in a given passage, one has to “show one’s work,” or the client will demand explanations, and rightly so. In particular, one must show what was added, what was deleted, and why.

**All about style**

In my experience, the key (as with many things in life) lies in style—more specifically, in this case, in character styles. I use three, in particular, to highlight the types of changes I need to make in the text: green for Suggested Additions; strikethrough grey for Suggested Deletions; and blue for Questions to Author (Fig. 1):

This colour-coding of changes signals to the client that if certain words—or, in this instance, much of a sentence—are missing or added in the translation, it is deliberate, rather than an oversight on my part. One can do this manually, of course, by choosing the relevant colour and/or style, but using character styles to do so is much quicker and easier. No less importantly, character styles make it much easier to find all instances of a particular type of change (Fig. 2), and Clear Formatting, when needed, so the relevant text reverts to black, for example, once a given question is resolved.
What will the client say?

Some clients may object to having their text changed in any way, and if so, one must naturally respect their wishes. But in my experience, the vast majority of clients welcome changes to their text that enhance its clarity, particularly when they see that it improves its chances of publication. That said, one must always take care not to change the message that the client is trying to convey. In particular, a wording that may seem odd in layman contexts may be the accepted phraseology in the client's particular field. Which is why, before submitting the final result, I always colour-code questionable words or passages in the Questions to Author character style, compile them into an email to the client, and ask what they meant to say in those passages, or whether a certain wording is the accepted terminology in their field (Fig. 3).

The all-important cover email on delivery

Since most clients (in my experience, at least) are unaware of character styles, or don't think of opening up the Styles list to see what each colour means, it's a good idea to include an explanation of the colour coding in the cover email of the final product along the lines of:
Display-related comments:

- Text in green (character style: [Suggested addition]) is text that I have added for the benefit of the foreign reader, or to suit the natural meter or accepted idiom in English.
- Text in strikethrough-grey (character style: [Suggested deletion])...

To this I usually add a list of content-related comments, in which I explain the changes I made in the translated text—often with a link to a blog post of mine in which I explain that particular issue at greater length (which saves me having to do so within the email itself—Fig. 4).

Fig. 4: Example of content-related comments that I add in the cover email of a completed translation, to explain changes made in the translated text in relation to the original.

Needless to say, all of the above pertains to the translation of non-fiction—be it academic, journalistic articles or reports. When it comes to fiction, or the account of someone being interviewed, for example, one must naturally emulate the register of the language of the original, filler words and all—e.g.:

* I would... first of all take care of myself, after that maybe, if I had time for them a little, but it also wasn’t the real time – I was stoned. I used to fall asleep in the middle, or not hear them, or... if I was ticked off, I would yell. (Rami)

Summary

The old expression, “Never apologise, never explain. Get it over with, and let them howl!” (which I always thought was a mantra of the British royal family, but apparently is a recommendation of a Victorian Oxford don to his disciples at the start of their careers) does not quite apply in our profession. While one need not apologize, as a translator, or editor, for improving a client’s writing to make it more intelligible, one must always explain why—if it involves substantial changes to the original in the translated or edited version—and highlight what these changes are. Using character styles and colour-coding, this is simply and easily conveyed in the text itself, to be complemented, if need be, with more detailed explanations in the cover email of the final result.

With these tips in mind, go boldly forth, and improve, if necessary, as you translate. As Shakespeare himself said: “Things done well and with a care, make for a happy client.” (Or at least, that’s how it goes in the Yiddish translation.)

*Jonathan Orr-Stav is a Hebrew-English translator and editor.*
Why not Learn an Indigenous Language or Two?

By Angela Fairbank

Taking up Silvia Xalabardé’s suggestion of learning something new, as well as Monica Cliveti’s love of learning a new language, and combining it with the Translation Bureau’s recent call-out for translators and interpreters of Indigenous languages, I thought to myself, these Covid times are a perfect opportunity to pick up an Indigenous language or two! It may be too late for many STIBC members approaching retirement age, as Stefanie Kennell mentioned in her President’s message above, but for those of us who are still young and able to soak up new learning like sponges, adding an Indigenous language to our portfolio could well be our way into a new sector of Translation and Interpreting assignments.

It’s unfortunate that we can’t travel to remote parts of BC and immerse ourselves in a new culture right now. Nor are we allowed to perspire in local sweat lodges or attend potlatches at the moment. Do not despair! A plethora of Indigenous language training can be accessed via distance learning in BC as well as other provinces and territories in Canada.

Having attended a recent Round Table hosted by the Translation Bureau as CTTIC Vice-President, and learning that a list of Indigenous-language-training institutions existed because someone had actually done the research and compiled it last year, I asked the Translation Bureau for said list and now have it in on my computer. Instead of publishing it verbatim here, however, I thought I’d summarise the offerings that are out there for you all.

I can’t guarantee that everything is still available but I do invite you to do your own research and see for yourself. Nevertheless, knowing that there are definite job opportunities in both translation and interpretation in Indigenous languages at the end of all your study is surely incentive enough.

First of all, let us give credit where credit is due. The document about post-secondary institutions offering courses in Indigenous Studies and/or Indigenous Languages in Canada was, if I understand correctly, compiled by Simon Lamoureux, Deputy Director of Indigenous Languages, Outreach and Partnerships, at the Translations Bureau, together with Dr. Kevin Lewis, Assistant Professor, University of Saskatchewan, Freelance
Translator. The Powerpoint presentation I received with their names on it is dated July 19, 2020. The points in the presentation that drew my attention most were as follows: 1) The Indigenous Language Act was adopted in June 2019. 2) In January 2019, Robert-Falcon Ouellette gave a speech in Plains Cree in the House of Commons. 3) In February 2019, the Translation Bureau provided services for the first time in Oneida Sign Language. 4) From January to June 2019, Interpretation and Translation services were provided in Indigenous languages for six sittings of the House of Commons. 5) More than 336 lexicons and glossaries have been compiled in over 70 Indigenous languages. 6) There are not enough suppliers of Inuktitut, Plains Cree, Ojibway and Déné compared to the number of programs offered in these languages. 7) The most active institutions offering higher education in Indigenous Languages are in the Prairies, Nunavut and Quebec. 8) Only Nunavut Arctic College offers an interpretation program. 9) In BC, where many Indigenous languages are endangered, only one post-secondary program is available.*

*Curious about this last statement, I took out the accompanying list dated April 6, 2020 to find out the location of this post-secondary program in BC. To my surprise, I found it mentioned 13 institutions in BC and I am pleased to add them here together with their website pages and the 43 (!) Indigenous languages they offer in brackets: Capilano University (https://www.capilanou.ca/programs-courses/program-profiles/lilwat-nation-language--culture-certificate/: Lil’wat, Sechelt, Squamish); Kwantlen Polytechnical University (https://libguides.kpu.ca/c.php?g=540526&p=5075329); Nicola Institute of Technology: (https://www.nvit.ca/programs/indigenouslanguages.htm: Cree, Halq’emeylem, n?e?kpmxcin, Nsyilxcen, Secwepemcstsin, Skwxwú7mesh, St’át’imcets); University of Victoria (Klahoose); T’szil Learning Centre (https://www.firstvoices.com/explore/FV/sections/Data/St%CC%95%C3%A1t%CC%95me/Lil’wat/L%CC%ADl%CC%93wat/Lilwat); Wilip Wilx’oskwhl Nisga’a Institute (http://wwni.bc.ca/: Nisga’a); Simon Fraser University (https://www.sfu.ca/inlp.html: Dene, Halq’emeylem – Upriver, Han, Heiltsuk, Hul’q’umi’num’, Hanq̓əmən̓ – Downriver, Kaska, Nsyilxcən, Nuxalk, Secwepemcstsin, Skwxwú7mesh, St’át’imcets, Tlingit, Tsilhqot’in, Tutchone, Xaad-Kil Haida); The Yinka Déné Language Institute (http://www.ydli.org); University of Northern British Columbia (https://www2.unbc.ca/first-nations-studies: Beaver, Carrier, Chilcotin, Coast Tsimshian, Cree, Dakelh, Gitxsan, Haida, Haisla, Nisga’a, Sekani, Shuswap, Slavey, Sm’algyax, Tahlton, Tlingit, Tsilhqot’in, Witsuwi’ten, Yinka Déné, Xa’isla:k’a); University of Victoria (https://www.uvic.ca/education/areas-study/indigenous-language/index.php#acc-bachelor-of-education-in-indigenous: Hul’q’umi’num’, Kwak’wala); Vancouver Island University (https://www.viu.ca/courses/indigenous/xwulmuxw-studies: Coast Salish Hul’q’umi’num’); University of the Fraser Valley (https://www.ufv.ca/indigenous-studies/program/stolo-studies/: Halq’eméylem, Stó:lō); and North Island College (https://www.nic.bc.ca/programs-courses/aboriginal-education/aboriginal-education-programs-courses/: Kwak’wala, Nuu-Chah-Nulth).

If you can’t find your desired language of learning in BC, then try Alberta, which offers different Indigenous language learning opportunities at 11 educational institutes: University of Alberta, University of Calgary, MacEwan University, Mount Royal University, Concordia University of Edmonton, University nuhelot’ine
thaiyots’į nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills, Old Sun College, Yellowhead Tribal College, Maskwacis Cultural College, University of Lethbridge and Athabasca University. These offer the following 17 languages: Algonquian, Anishnaab, Athapaskan, Blackfoot, Cree, Dene, Dogrib, Eskimo-Aleu, Haida, Michif, Nakoda, Salishan, Saulteau, Sion, Slavey, Stoney and Tsuu T’ina.

Wanting to look further afield? The list also contains educational institutions in Manitoba (5 institutions offering Cree, Dakota, Michif, Ojibway, Oji-Cree, Swampy); New Brunswick (2 offering Maliseet, Mi’kmaq, Passamaquoddy, Wolastoq); Newfoundland and Labrador (1: Beothuk, Cayuga, Cree, Innu-aimun, Inuitut, Mi’kmaw, Naskapi, Proto-Algonquian); Northwest Territories (1: Dene Kede, Inuuqatigiit, Sahtu Dene, South Slavey); Nova Scotia (4: Mi’kmaq, Mi’kmaw); Nunavut (1: Inuitut, see: https://arcticcollege.ca/copy-of-program-items/culture/?rq=Revitalization and https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b1954d75cf7398b94327249r/5b466b35575d1f8e0081fd7/1531341638176/Interpreter+Translator.pdf); Ontario (16: Algonquian, Anishnaabe, Anishinaabemowin, Cayuga, Cherokee, Cree, Haudenosaunee, Iroquoian, Inuktitut, Lunaape, Mohawk, Nishnawbe, Oji-Cree, Ojibwe, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Tuscarora); Prince Edward Island (1: Mi’kmaq); Quebec (9: Abanaki, Algonquian, Algonquin, Anishnabe, Anicinabe, Atikamekw, Attikamek, Cree, Haudenosaunee, Innashitshkuessat, Innu, Inuitut, Iroquoian, Lyni-ayamiwin, Kanien’khehaka, Mi’gmaq, Mohawk, Naskapi); Saskatchewan (4: Cree, Dakota, Dene, Nakota, Ojibwe, Saulteaux); and Yukon (1: Athabaskan, Southern Tutchone).

How’s that for a typing test! And looking at this list, it’s quite clear to me that BC has the most learning opportunities in terms of languages (Go BC!), despite the PowerPoint presentation saying otherwise, while Ontario offers the most educational institutes offering indigenous language studies.

I will make the full list available at the STIBC office, should you like to have a look. Happy studying and enjoy your immersion into one or more new cultures!

**Additional note:** Just prior to publishing this edition of the *STIBC Voice*, I learned from a LinkedIn post that “The University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus, located in the territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation, is set to become the first university in Canada to offer a bachelor’s degree in Indigenous language fluency”: https://news.ok.ubc.ca/2021/03/29/ubc-okanagan-to-offer-canadas-first-bachelors-degree-of-indigenous-language-fluency/. So there you go!

Angela Fairbank, M.A., C.T.
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Registrar, STIBC Board of Directors, 2019-2021
STIBC Voice Editor, 2019-2021
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Obituary

Below is an extract from an obituary published on January 23, 2021 in the Vancouver Sun/The Province. You can find the full obit at https://vancouversunandprovince.remembering.ca/obituary/silvana-carr-1081485162

Silvana Ester Carr (July 19, 1943 - January 18, 2021)

Silvana Ester Carr (née Minuto) passed away peacefully on January 18, 2021 in the Vancouver Hospice after a year-long struggle with Stage 4 cancer. She will be lovingly remembered by Derek, her husband of 50 years; their children Kate and Paul; daughter-in-law Jackie; wonderful grandson Joseph; relatives in Italy and England; and countless friends and former colleagues in Canada and elsewhere.

Born in Alba, Italy, to Paolo and Rina Minuto, Silvana spent part of her childhood in Córdoba, Argentina before the family moved to Vancouver in the early 1950s. Graduating from Our Lady of Perpetual Help High School, she went on to the University of British Columbia (UBC), completing her B.A. with Honours in Romance Studies in 1965 and her Ph.D. in 1978. Silvana taught both Italian and Spanish as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at UBC and was a Sessional Lecturer in Italian from 1978 to 1989. She then enjoyed a long and satisfying career as Coordinator of the internationally-recognized and award-winning Court, Medical and Community Interpreting Program at Vancouver Community College. She retired in 2009…

Past-President of STIBC, Karin Reinhold, M.Ed. Certified Translator & Interpreter (German<>English) adds “Having succeeded Silvana as the Program Coordinator at VCC’s Interpreting Certificate Programs in 2008, I will always remember her for her warm, caring and positive approach to all and I feel forever blessed to have known her as a mentor and role model in the interpreting world.”

(Image from the Vancouver Sun/The Province obituary)
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The *STIBC Voice* is Calling All Members!

The *STIBC Voice*, published four times a year (January, April, July and October), is looking for contributions that relate to the translation and interpretation industries locally, nationally, and internationally.

Author-members eager to share new ideas, sources of inspiration, proposals for improvement, and experiences of interest to colleagues and friends are invited to submit news items, articles, announcements or illustrated essays that fit into the following framework:

**News Items and Announcements** (50–200 words)
Brief notices about events, issues and projects relevant to STIBC.

**Feature Articles** (500–800 words)
Longer pieces that entertain, enlighten and compel
- discussing one or more topics of interest in depth;
- sharing knowledge, for example professional experiences, implementation efforts in markets or tips and tricks;
- offering new perspectives on current global issues affecting our profession, such as migration, citizenship and technological change;
- reflecting on technical and linguistic matters, educational issues, regulatory perspectives, etc.

Submissions should include a title, the author’s name and date (section headings optional). The use of images (paintings, sketches, photos, tables and/or sidebars) for illustration and emphasis is encouraged.

All contributed material must comply with the ethical principles and standards of professional conduct set out in the STIBC Code of Ethics (see the Bylaws, Part 14).

Please send all texts (.doc, .docx, or .rtf files, double-spaced 12-point standard font, basic formatting) and images (.jpg or .png files) to the STIBC Voice Editor at voice-editor@stibc.org

All articles selected for publication will be edited for content (including length, if they exceed the recommended word count and space is tight), spelling and grammar.

Contributions are welcome at any time throughout the year, but...

**THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT ISSUE IS**

**Thursday, July 1, 2021.**
To suggest ideas for articles or to ask about any other details, please contact the STIBC Voice Editor at voice-editor@stibc.org.

Please note: Certified Members are reminded that each article they contribute that is accepted for publication in the Voice is eligible for 1 CE credit under the Continuing Education Chart subscription/contribution category, which allows a maximum of 5 credits in this category per year.

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