

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS



Association of Polish Translators and Interpreters

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WARSAW

STRUGGLING FOR QUALITY AND GOOD
RATES

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PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Role of translators and quality translation

Role of translators in the history of European culture

Respect for translators in other cultures

Marpa the Translator, Buddhist teacher credited for translating the most important texts (Vajrayama) – just one example from Tibetan culture

Ancient translators' tools versus CAT of our times; tasks and quality requirements – not changed

Saint Jerome or Rosetta Stone?

- Translations of the most important texts into the dominant languages (Greek; Latin)
- 70 Translators and St Jerome's letter to Pammachius “on the best kind of translation” - ancient testimony
- The Ten Commandments and Roman law; the backgrounds of the European legal system
- Christianity in Poland since 966; Latin as universal language; first translations of Jerome's Vulgata into the Polish language

Polish translators

Polish elite communicated and wrote in Latin

- Promoting christianity required the Bible translations into the Polish language
- First translators; Jesuit Jakub Wujek – the “Polish St Jerome” - author of translation of the Bible which became the source of biblical expressions for three centuries; the greatest Polish poets quoted from this translation (piece of work of an individual)
- 1966 collective millenary translation of the Bible by the Benedictines of Tyniec

Translators – poets, lawyers, scientists

- Translators “for pleasure”
- Most poets are translators as well
- Polish examples: Jan Kochanowski, Juliusz Słowacki, Adam Mickiewicz, Jan Kasprówicz, Czesław Miłosz, Wisława Szymborska, Ludmiła Marjańska, Stanisław Barańczak, Barbara Sadowska
- Translators “for purpose”
- Science, medicine, law

Profession of public trust

- Areas where a mistake or an error in translation may result in severe consequences for a human, a society or a state
- Law, medicine, education, military forces, aviation... practically, in all the aspects of human life – even cuisine, if we think of some species of fish or mushrooms mentioned in cookery books!
- Legal and judicial texts of different “weights”, from car purchase certificates to international treaties

Translators and the challenges of today's world

- “traitore traduttore” - translators for military missions, translators in the courts of justice
- Sworn translators faced with migration problems
- Translator's knowledge of the cultural and legal aspects of the countries of origin of the migrants may lead to alleviation of many problems
- Quality translation as ethical requirement

Main challenges for quality

- Low awareness of the role of translators and importance of quality translations
- “False friends” - Google Translator and other tools “simplifying” communication
- General lack of awareness of the importance of quality translation
- Translation agencies and individuals competing for orders with the lowest price
- The most expensive “cheap” translators (lessons hard learnt by the clients)

APTI and its activities (1)

- The Association of Polish Translators and Interpreters was established in February 1981
- “Founding Fathers” and their struggle for official recognition of our profession
- Co-operation with international associations (FIT) and other Polish professional associations
- Membership: 500+ translators of many specialties, like ancient Chinese poetry, the most advanced technology texts, official documents and legal papers, including sworn translators licenced by the Ministry of Justice

APTI and its activities (2)

- Organization operating based on the volunteers' work of all its members and the Board
- The Board members elected for a three year term of office
- APTI's budget: membership fees and some commercial activity to pay the rent and two part-time office employees (no grants, no public aid)
- Discouraging legal provision: not paid for their hard work, the President and the Board members are financially responsible for financial liabilities of APTI

APTI and its activities (3)

Mission and vision and the “founding fathers”, great translators and interpreters who have been able to make translation an officially recognized profession and gain respect for the profession – jeopardized by the poor quality

Leading role of the chartered/licensed/sworn translators in rate-setting processes - rates provided by the law

APTI as organization participating in legislative work

- Consultations in the process of drafting new laws – law on intellectual property, law on the profession of sworn translator
- APTI representatives within the composition of the Working Group at the Ministry of Justice
- Co-operation with professional technical associations and other “allies” in the struggle for promoting quality rather than “the lowest price” in the provisions of law on public procurement

APTI and its activities (4)

- APTI's Clubs and other community building activities
- Raising awareness and promotion of quality at different fora (Parliament, Book Fairs, conferences)
- Training addressed to members and non-members
- Patronage over initiatives of other institutions and persons
- Promoting awards for translators

Conclusion: “the harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few”

Professional non governmental and nation wide organization – the Association of Polish Translators and Interpreters has got a very important role in the struggle for quality and good rates and working conditions for the quality translation providers, and tries to do its best in spite of difficulties and discouraging environment, briefly mentioned here.

Sadly, there are not too many willing to devote their unpaid time and effort for the community

I would like to invite you, colleagues, to join APTI and contribute your experience!