



The MITA Reader

Fabulous February

METROPLEX INTERPRETERS
& TRANSLATORS
ASSOCIATION

Serving DFW and North Texas

MITA welcomes Eta Trabing on February 4, 2006

By Carol Shaw
MITA Editor

Eta Trabing knows a thing or two about translators and interpreters.

After 30 successful years in the T&I business, she should. In addition to her work as a translator and interpreter (conference, certified federal and state courts), Ms. Trabing is also a highly recognized teacher and trainer. Her interpreter training materials and specialized dictionaries are a valuable resource in our industry.

And soon MITAns will have the opportunity to benefit from her expertise and pepper her with questions.

Under the title "The Business Side of Being a T/I", Ms. Trabing will present a seminar focused on the practical aspects of our business. How do we

effectively market our skills? What about maintaining those all-important professional relationships? How do we build a business, instead of just an overflowing calendar?

This is a special opportunity to hear from someone who - literally—wrote the book.

The seminar (free to all comers) begins promptly at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, February 4th, 2006, at the Hackberry Creek Country Club located at 1901 Royal Lane in Irving, Texas.



Volume 3, Issue 1
December '05-January '06

In this issue:

- *Eta Trabing, p. 1*
- *Calendar p. 2*
- *Meeting Pictures p 3*
- *Humor p. 5*



Intonation In English: *Nouns and Adjectives Are Stressed Differently Than Verbs*

By: Frank Gerace

Listen and Learn: Nouns and Adjectives one way; Verbs another

Chinese has "tones" but all languages have their own special intonation. The "music" of a language is its **intonation** and it is perhaps the most important element of a correct accent.

A "good" accent is not only a question of good pronunciation. Many people think that *pronunciation* is what makes up an accent. It may be that pronunciation is very important for an *understandable* accent. But it is intonation that gives the final touch that makes an ac-

cent *correct* or native. Often we hear someone speaking with perfect grammar, and perfect formation of the sounds of English but with a little something that gives her away as not being a native speaker.

Therefore, it is necessary to realize that there are **three** components to an accent, pronunciation, intonation, and linking. In other places we will examine pronunciation, the proper formation of vowels and consonants, and linking, the way that syllables within a word, and the beginning and ending of words come together.

But what interests us now is the issue of intonation, and in particular the difference in intonation of nouns and adjectives on the one hand, and the intonation of verbs on

(Continued on page 3)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS — meet on second Saturday of odd months — at 3 pm at the home of Diana Ianariello.

MITA Meeting February 4

Join us for lively discussions and shared information! For directions, go to www.dfw-mita.com

February 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

February 4: MITA Meeting—Eta Trabing

February 14: Valentine’s Day

February 20: President’s Day

February 28: Mardi Gras

March 11: Steering Committee Meeting

March 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Elsewhere:

February 25, 2006 (Los Angeles)
ATA Science and Tecnology Seminar.
www.atanet.org

May 19-21 (Houston)
NAJIT Annual Conference. www.najit.org

October 18-21 (Seattle)
ALTA Annual Conference.
www.literarytranslators.org

November 1-4, 2006 (New Orleans)
ATA Annual Conference

Steering Committee

MITA’s steering committee met on January 14, 2006, at **Ana Laura Gamborino’s** home. Present were Ana Laura, **Cody Serra, Mies de Vries, Marilyn Retta, Karen Sharp, and Carol Shaw**. Members worked on speaker plans for the remainder of 2006.

All Steering Committee meetings are open to participation by other members; bring your ideas and bring your energy! Membership on the Steering Committee is open, requiring only the willingness to commit your time.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on March 11.

English Intonation...

(Continued from page 1)

the other. A review of this gives us a perfect example of how meaning affects intonation.

Noun/Adjective and Verb

In other articles, we saw: that verbs of two syllables often have the stress on the second syllable, while the related noun has the stress on the first syllable. We also saw that expressions of two words are stressed differently according to their meaning.

This article, along with the others, is an example of the effect that meaning has on intonation in English. Many native speakers do not realize that the "rule" of this section is pretty rigorous. To know it can help you in building your vocabulary at the same time that you perfect your intonation. Even native speakers can profit from being more precise in the intonation of their English.

This is another intonation pattern that you must master. **Verbs** ending in the letters "ate" pronounce the letter "a" of the last syllable with the "long a" sound (the name of the letter "a", the sound of the words *steak* and *make*). Related **nouns** or **adjectives** pronounce the letter "a" of the last syllable with the indefinite schwa sound (the sound of the "a" of the word *about*, or the second "e" in the word *elephant*)

For each word, indicate that you know the difference between the two uses of the same word (by "same" we mean having the same spelling.)

First, give a brief meaning of the word used as noun or adjective and put the letter "I" to indicate that the final letter "a" is the indefinite sound of the "a" in *about*.

Next, give a brief meaning of the word used as a verb and put the letter "A" to indicate that the final letter "a" is the sound of the "long a" of the word *make*.

I start the exercise with two examples, the words *alternate* and *appropriate*. I have indicated the stress with CAPITAL LETTERS. You underline the syllable that is stressed, and write a brief explanation to indicate that you understand the difference. You do the rest of the table. And make sure you pronounce the words OUT LOUD.

alternate I
Noun: A substitute

alternate A
Verb: To take turns.

appropriate I
Adjective: correct or suitable

Appropriate A
Verb: To take over.

Now, you do the rest of the table, underlining the accented syllable and defining the word to emphasize your understanding that the accent goes with the meaning.

approximate, to approximate
articulate, to articulate
associate, to associate
deliberate, to deliberate
duplicate, to duplicate
lamine, to laminate
graduate, to graduate
intimate, to intimate
moderate, to moderate
predicate, to predicate
precipitate, to precipitate

Practice on the following sentences that contain some of the words of the list used both as noun or adjective, and as verb. Underline the accent and read the sentences out loud

The facilitator wanted to separate the general topic into separate categories
Would you care to elaborate on his elaborate explanation?
Have you heard that your associate is known to associate with gangsters?
How much do you estimate that the estimate will be?

Look for other articles on this same subject by searching for the word "intonation"!

Humor

*Be careful about reading health books.
You may die of a misprint.*



- Mark Twain

About the Author: Frank Gerace Ph.D has worked in Latin America in UN and national Educational and Communication Projects, and has taught in Bolivian and Peruvian Universities. He currently teaches English in New York City at La Guardia College/CUNY. He provides resources on accent reduction and the proper American English accent at <http://www.GoodAccent.com>.

Source: www.isnare.com

Used by permission

RESOURCE

Mita's **Tiina Fallini** attended the 2005 ATA Conference in Seattle, and particularly appreciated the seminar on *Guerrilla Marketing for Translators*.

Says Tiina, "It was a very informative seminar, and I asked the speaker to send me his presentation in a written format. Underneath is the link he sent me. I thought some of my fellow MITAns might find it interesting as well."

<http://www.linguistsuccess.com/gm4translators>

Christmas, 2005

On December 3, 2005, MITAns met at the Grand Chinese Restaurant in Irving, Texas, to celebrate the holidays together.

Ana Laura Gamborino did a wonderful job selecting the site and coordinating with the restaurant personnel. **Elsa Pittman** had engineered an enjoyable ice-breaker involving the identification of famous American couples (ranging from Bill and Hillary Clinton to Laurel and Hardy!) Thanks also go to **Maria Elizalde**, **Martha Villarreal**, **Mariana Peterson**, and others provided invaluable help with RSVPs, door prizes, name tags, and other essentials. After smaller door prizes were awarded, **Lily Miner** won the drawing for the grand prize (\$100 gift certificate).

It was a great way to end the year!



Dues are due - but what do they do?

Aside from providing a fun play on words, dues are important to the smooth operation of any professional organization.

Your \$40 (or \$50, for corporate members) annual dues allow us to: host and maintain the website; rent meeting rooms; maintain a MITA telephone line; plan special events and speakers; and cover such other expenses as may occur.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, please take a moment to do so. We will start reviewing names this month, and only paid memberships will be kept in the online directory!



We all get those emails warning, asking, pleading and otherwise "informing" us of
kidney thieves in, say, Chicago;
internet scams;
prayer needs;
impending government actions that spell doom
or whatever—
and we wonder if they're for real.

Some of the better resources for checking out potential urban legends are:

urbandlegends.about.com
www.snopes.com
www.scambuster.org

Happy de-myth-tefying!