



The MITA Reader

- AprilMay '06

Old Languages Never Die...

They just get reborn (in a manner of speaking)

By Prof. Leonardo "Buddy" Strittmatter
Special to the Reader

Mama Latin gave birth to several languages but the most well known are the five that go with the name of a nation and have geographic boundaries on a map, and are therefore easier to remember and recognize. Entire languages gradually change dramatically. Some, like Latin, even disappear from use and remain only in historical records. Over a period of time, other new languages are born, such as the languages to which Mama Latin gave birth.



The most widely spoken of her brood can be divided into two major groups - East and West.

- Eastern languages: Romanian and Italian. One of the characteristics of eastern Latin languages is the addition of "i" or "e" to the end of a noun or adjective, in order to form the plural.
- Western languages: French, Spanish and Portuguese. In these, the plural of nouns or adjectives is formed by adding an "s" or "es".

There are other differences of course, but this shows easily how languages can evolve in different

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METROPLEX INTERPRETERS
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How would YOU translate "muggle"?

...and other brain teasers, at the June 3 meeting

By Carol Shaw

Reader Editor

Make sure to keep your afternoon open for MITA's regular meeting, **Saturday, June 3, 2006**. Our featured speaker is **Tracy Rundstrom Williams**, Associate Director of International Studies at Texas Christian University. Ms. Williams will use the popular Harry Potter series to lead MITA members through the challenges of translating and interpreting created speech.

"In the Harry Potter series, J.K. Rowling has woven a magnificent tale of wizards who live among us, yet in a world slightly askew from ours. Her ability to create new words, while incorporat-

ing familiar elements, has been one of the reasons for her success in creating a vivid, accessible, and believable new world," explains Ms. Williams. "Part of the brilliance of Rowling's creations is that they have morphological structures deep and meaningful enough to captivate the more mature reader, while still being silly and fun enough for children and young adults to enjoy."

The presentation will explore both the morphology and the broader implications of the words Rowling has created. It will examine several categories of words that Rowling has produced and demonstrate how the words have been 'successful' both morpho-

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MITA's GENERAL MEMBERSHIP meetings are held on the first Saturday of every even-numbered month.

The **MITA STEERING COMMITTEE** meets on the last Saturday of every even numbered month.

MITA Meeting June 3

June 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	

June 3: MITA Meeting

June 14: Flag Day

June 18: Father's Day

July 4: Independence Day



July 22: ATA exam sitting in San Antonio, TX (info: www.atanet.org)

July 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					

AUGUST: Speaker **Peter Unseth** is an Assistant Professor at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas, and a past contributor to the ATA Chronicle.

Elsewhere in 2006:

June 17— ATA Patent seminar

August 18—FCICE test

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

November 1-4 (New Orleans) ATA Annual Conference. www.atanet.org

Steering Committee

MITA's steering committee met on April 29 at Le Madeleine, in Dallas. Present were **María Yolanda Rivera, Tiina Fallini, Mies de Vries, Marilyn Retta, Karen Sharp, Mariana Peterson, Cody Serra, Ana Laura Gamborino** and **Carol Shaw**. Future speakers, activities and website needs were discussed.

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 at the end of June..

...Muggle?

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logically and semantically. In addition, it will consider the problems these new words have caused for translators of the books. Finally, it will consider how those translators have either successfully or unsuccessfully captured the meaning, spirit, and form of the invented words.

In addition to her full-time work at TCU, Ms. Williams is pursuing her doctoral studies at the Department of Linguistics and TESOL at the University of Texas at Arlington. Her research interests include discourse analysis, linguistic politeness, and second language acquisition. She has lived in Belgium, France, and Japan, and has studied French, Spanish, and Japanese.

As usual, MITA's meeting will start at 2:30 at the Hackberry Creek Country Club, in Irving. Don't miss this fascinating opportunity!



Profile: Marilyn Retta, World Traveller

By Carol Shaw
Reader Editor



In this society that loves acronyms, introducing Marilyn Retta is just plain fun: B.A., M.A., MK and TCK. The B.A.¹ from UTA² is in Spanish; the M.A.³ from DTS⁴ is in Biblical Studies. But her parents are responsible for giving her the "MK" - missionary kid. That resulted in her being a TCK⁵.

TCKs know a thing or two about running around with multiple languages inside their heads, and multiple cultures in their frames of reference. Born to American parents in Guatemala City, and raised in Guatemala and Mexico, Marilyn found her years of high school in Tyler, Texas, disconcerting. "I wondered if I would ever feel like I belonged in this country after growing up abroad," says Marilyn.

As an adult, Marilyn added Argentina and Germany to the list of countries she has lived in. She and her husband, Edward, established Cross Culture Communications, a company specialized in providing cross-cultural training and language services.

Marilyn focuses primarily on translation and interpreting, but participates as well in the cross-cultural aspect. "I enjoy helping families moving either to or from the USA to understand how different everything will be, how helpless and ineffectual they will feel, and how that is NORMAL!" she comments.

Marilyn began translating songs in college and later segued into the field of translation full-time. Despite her ATA⁶ certification and Texas Court Interpreter license, she says that her biggest surprise has been "that I keep on learning how much I don't know.

If it weren't for deadlines, I'd never quit "tweaking" [translations]."

An integral part of the MITA Steering Committee, Marilyn is also a member of the ATA, TAJIT⁷ and NAJIT⁸.

Still, the roles dearest to Marilyn's heart don't have acronyms attached. She and Ed have three daughters, and together, the Retta family enjoy going to art museums and - what else - traveling. Some day, this nomadic TCK would like to visit India, and the Reader hopes she does.

For more information about Marilyn Retta, you are invited to visit www.crossculturecommunications.com

Key to Acronyms Used:

- 1 Bachelor of Arts
- 2 University of Texas at Arlington
- 3 Master of Arts
- 4 Dallas Theological Seminary
- 5 Third Culture Kid
- 6 American Translators Association
- 7 Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators
- 8 National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators

For more information on TCKs, visit www.tckworld.com and similar websites, or visit your local library.

...Mama Latin

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directions.

Mama Latin gave birth to other Latin languages as well, but they are not as widely known. They are spoken in limited geographical areas whose boundaries might appear on a linguistic map but not an ordinary geographical map, or one showing political boundaries.

Among those other Latin "children" that sprang from Mama Latin and are not shown on geographical maps are:

a. Gallego (Galician). Spoken in the region of Spain that lies to the north of Portugal, in an area known as Galicia. Gallego is actually closer to Portuguese than Spanish, with an 85% intelligibility rate for Portuguese speakers. (Standard Portuguese is based on the southern dialect, known as Estremenho.)

b. Catalá (Catalan-Valencian-Baleare). Spoken in northeastern Spain, in the provinces of Catalonia and Valencia, as well as the Balearic Islands, Carce and Murcia. The Catalonians (Catalanes) have demanded more independence from the central government in Madrid.

c. Provençal. Spoken in the province of Provence and other areas of southeastern France. Like Catalá, Provençal is an Ibero-Romance language. It has numerous dialects, none of which are universally accepted as the standard literary form (Nobel Prize laureate Frederic Mistral wrote in Provençal.)

d. Romansch. Spoken high in the mountains of Switzerland. This group of dialects is listed as one of Switzerland's four national languages. Switzerland's other national languages appear on its paper money: Italian, German, and French. And if a test ever mentions "the Swiss language", remember that it is simply a diversion. There is no Swiss language. There are Swiss German, Swiss French and Swiss Italian, and Romansch, but not "just Swiss".

e. Corsican. Spoken primarily on the Mediterranean island where Napoleon was born. Corsican falls into the Tuscan group of Italian dialects.

f. Sardinia. Four distinct dialects have developed on this Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea.

g. Haitian Creole. Spoken on Haiti, which occupies the western 1/3 of the island of Hispaniola (Antilles). Its Spanish-speaking neighbor, the Dominican Republic, occupies the eastern 2/3 of the island. Haitian Creole is a mixture of French and several African tribal tongues, directly resulting from the slave trade.

Professor Buddy Strittmatter is a long-time MITA member and a past contributor to the Reader. For more information on the origin and relationships between languages, go to www.ethnologue.com

H U M O R

Two al Qaeda spies meet in a busy restaurant after they had successfully slipped into the U.S. The first spy starts speaking in Arabic.

The second spy shushes him quickly and whispers:

"Don't blow our cover. You're in America now.... speak Spanish." - Unknown

"Blessed are we who can laugh at ourselves, for we shall never cease to be amused"
- Unknown



Training

TAJIT (www.tajit.org) is now an official provider of *Continuing Education* for *Licensed Court Interpreters* in Texas. Courses are in development and will be posted on the website.

A *Global Link* will be offering medical interpreting seminars in the DFW area this summer. For more information, email barointran@sbcglobal.net.

The *National Center for Interpretation* is offering seminars in June to prepare for the FCICE. The *Agnese Haury Institute for Interpretation* is offering translation workshops in July. <http://nci.arizona.edu>