



The MITA Reader

Santa's on his way!

MITA party scheduled for December 2, 2006

By Carol Shaw
MITA Editor

Christmas is coming, and we're kicking off the holidays with *dinner and a silent auction!* Come and join your fellow MITAns at **7:00 p.m. on December 2, 2006.** We'll be dining at *Mi Cocina, located at 7750 N. MacArthur Blvd. in Irving.*

In order to allow maximum social time, there will be no special speaker. We will, however, be holding a silent auction. Come ready to bid - and if you wish to make a donation to the auction, we welcome all comers! As members will be covering their own expenses, sample menus are available and were included on the back of the Christ-

mas party invitations sent out. You are also free, of course, to order á la carte.

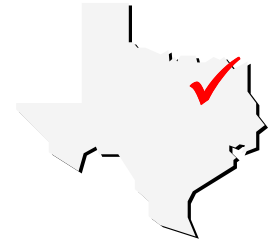
If you did not receive an invitation, it means we don't have your correct mailing address on file. Please email me at cshaw@nexuslanguage.com with the correct address.

And remember. *anyone paying their 2007 membership dues by the end of the Christmas party is entitled to take a \$5 discount* (\$35 instead of \$40 for individuals, and \$45 instead of \$50 for corporate members.)



METROPLEX INTERPRETERS
& TRANSLATORS
ASSOCIATION

Serving DFW and North Texas



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“Job Application” Does Not Mean “Aplicación de Trabajo”

The danger of false cognates

By: Prof. Buddy Strittmatter
Contributing Writer

Cognates - words that sound alike - are common in any language pair that has the same linguistic origins. In many cases, the words share a common root that evolved differently over time in the two different languages. “True” cognates have

the same meaning in both languages, while “false” cognates do not.

In addition to a simple difference in how they evolved, words may be true cognates in one context or usage, but false in another. Syntax provides an additional dimension when dealing with possible cognates.

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STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS — meet on second Saturday of odd-numbered months .

First MITA Meeting for 2007: February 3

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

November 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		

- December 2:** MITA Christmas Party
- December 25:** Christmas Day
- December 31:** New Year's Day
- January 1:** New Year's Day
- January 15:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day

December 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:

January 6, 2007 (Austin)
 AATIA is hosting an all-day seminar for court interpreters on back injuries. For more information, go to www.aatia.org

May 4-7 (Houston)
 ATA Energy Conference. For more information, go to www.atanet.org

October 31 (San Francisco)
 ATA Annual Conference.
www.atanet.org

Steering Committee

MITA's steering committee met on November 4, 2006, at **La Madeleine** in Irving. Present were **Ana Laura Gamborino, Marilyn Retta, Karen Sharp, María Yolanda Rivera, Mariana Peterson** and **Carol Shaw**. Members discussed issues with the website, possible hosting of an ATA certification exam, speakers for 2007, membership lists and dues, and the Christmas party.

All Steering Committee meetings are open to participation by other members; bring your ideas and bring your energy! The next meeting will be held on December 16, 2006.

False cognates...

(Continued from page 1)

For example, the two words “job application” in English use the Germanic syntax or word order. If we put them in the Latin syntax or word order, they become “application for [use on] a job.” Immediately we see that we are not using the noun to mean a request, but either as a work method or procedure. The meaning becomes apparent in the change of syntax.

In English, the meaning of the verb “apply” relies on context and syntax. “Apply to” can mean to bring into nearness, or contact with something (to apply the brakes on a car, to apply glue to the paper, to apply all your money to a mortgage, to apply medication to a wound), or to establish relevance (the judge applies the law in court, that rule does not apply in this case, etc.) In these cases, the Spanish cognate “aplicar” or “aplicación” can be used.

On the other hand, to “apply for” means to request, to ask for or solicit. Therefore, to apply for a job is to request or solicit a job and the correct translation into Spanish is “solicitar trabajo”, never “aplicar al trabajo”. The cognate becomes false.

The noun form, “application”, can also be either a true or false cognate depending on the context. In the phrases “the doctor put a medical application on the wound” and “the judge demonstrated an appropriate application of the law”, the noun relates to “apply to”. But in “submit a job application”, the noun refers to “apply for.”

So “job application” in English is always “solicitud de trabajo” in Spanish, but never “aplicación de trabajo”. Similar cognates exist between other language pairs. Checking the syntax and context (“job application” vs. “application for a job”) can help the source language meaning become immediately apparent, avoiding false cognates and allowing a correct translation into the target language.



Prof. **Leonardo “Buddy” Strittmatter** is a court interpreter, with accreditations from the U.S. Courts, the State Department, and the States of California, Texas and New Mexico. He also teaches Court Interpretation and Translation at Tarrant County Collage, Northwest Campus, in Fort Worth, TX.

Continuing Education for Licensed Court Interpreters

LCIs seeking continuing education points for 2007 may check with the following for course dates:

Access Language Center (Richardson)
www.accesslc.net

Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association
www.aatia.org

Berkana Language Center (Houston)
www.eberkana.com

Masterword (Houston, but provides classes locally)
www.masterword.com

Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (Austin)
www.tmcec.com

Texas LCI (San Antonio)
www.texaslci.com

TAJIT (Austin, but offers courses statewide)
www.tajit.org

From the emails of MITAs Mies de Vries, we get this fun challenge to our brain's flexibility:

fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgrtrane mnid, too.

Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe tuo fo 100 anc.

i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsrit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it who-tuit a pboerlm.

Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmrig huh?

And I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ip-morantt!

NEWS WATCH

MITA's **Tiina Fallini** is currently working on coordinating a possible Trados® workshop in the Dallas area. Information will be sent out as soon as specific plans are made.

Marilyn Retta and **María Yolanda Rivera** are hard at work lining up speakers for 2007. So far, it looks like we're going to have a fascinating year ahead!

A huge THANK YOU goes to **Ana Laura Gamborino** and **Mariana Peterson** for chairing this year's Christmas party.

(If you have any news to add to the Reader, please remember—this is YOUR newsletter!)

RESOURCE

Model translation contract now available for download

Uwe Muegge, the author of "Translation Contract: A Standards-Based Model Solution", announced the availability of a PDF version of his book for immediate download. "Translation Contract" is based on the most relevant international translation standards, and the individual forms in this collection can be customized to suit the needs of both translators and translation clients. The bound version continues to be available at Amazon and bookstores everywhere.

Uwe Muegge has more than ten years of experience in the translation industry. He currently serves as corporate terminologist at Medtronic, the world's largest manufacturer of medical technology, and teaches Computer-Assisted Translation at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the premier post-graduate institution for translator training in the United States.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.muegge.cc>



Editor's note: press releases and similar items are printed as a courtesy and imply no endorsement by the Reader, the Reader's staff or MITA.

We all know that English is an odd language. Take a look at these homonyms: can you read them all correctly the first time through?

- 1) The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
- 2) The farm was used to **produce produce**.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.
- 4) We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.
- 5) He could **lead** if he would get the **lead** out.
- 6) The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**.
- 7) Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to **present** the **present**.
- 8) A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.
- 9) When shot at, the **dove dove** into the bushes.
- 10) I did not **object** to the **object**.
- 11) The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.
- 12) There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**.
- 13) They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.
- 14) The buck **does** funny things when the **does** are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a **sewer** fell down into a **sewer** line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.
- 17) The **wind** was too strong to **wind** the **sail**.
- 18) Upon seeing the **tear** in the painting I shed a **tear**.
- 19) I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of tests.