

The MITA

Reader

www.dfw-mita.com

A newsletter for the DFW-area Metroplex Interpreters and Translators Association

The Ticking Clock

By Laura Tamayo Gamborino

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Workshops and Conferences start 2008 out right!

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Dues and Directory Update:

A few bugs have been worked out and the directory updates seem to be progressing nicely. If you experience any problems, please let the Steering Committee know. Remember: if your dues aren't paid up, you won't be included in the directory!

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The MITA Reader is published for the benefit of MITA members and friends. Submissions are welcome and should be submitted to the editor, Carol Shaw, at cshaw@nexuslanguage.com

The Ticking Clock

By Laura Tamayo Gamborino



You have a deadline in 24 hours, the phone won't stop ringing, and each call has you switching from one language to the other. Just to make life more interesting, your proofreader has the stomach flu and your backup translator is on vacation. It's just you, your home office and the ticking clock. Fun.

I'm sure we all solve this dilemma in different ways. Here are some solutions that have proven to be useful. Maybe refreshing our memory will contribute to preventing future meltdowns.

Dual Translation – This process involves two translators, two computers, and one translated piece.

The idea is to find an available translator in town with a good reputation and bribe them to come to your office in exchange for Chinese take out and a cut of the earnings. One of you translates out loud while the other types.

This collaborative way of working is not only proven to be productive, it gives you the benefit of two people's experience and language abilities, without the ulcer-causing stress of wondering whether you chose your proofreader partner wisely.

Professional Proofreader – You could also hire a professional proofreader for the target language document. You may not have the benefit of a bilingual, but you'll have a document free of typos, stray bullets, and spacing errors.

References – Reputations are made not only by your clients, but also by your colleagues. Ask for a recommendation from someone whose *work* you admire.

Go on translators' networking sites and take a chance on a translator who has agency comments like "our client was very satisfied" or direct client comments like "very professional".

The idea is to rely either on the opinion of someone whose work you know and respect,

or on the opinion of the people who will ultimately use the translated document.

Proofread Yourself – Sometimes this is the only choice we can live with. Use best practices. Take a break between translating and proofreading.

But make it a real break that takes you away from anything written. Go for a short walk and get your blood moving. Watch TV. Call a friend. And then edit in small blocks of time. Concentration fades and gives tiny mistakes a chance to slip past you.

When you come back to your work, turn the phone off and give your eyes something new to look at. Try printing a version in a different font or enlarge it.

If you don't like to print in order to proof, watch out. Mistakes are harder to catch on your screen, and when you're pressed for time, you need every conceivable advantage.

As a final "sieve," turn on the track changes feature, input your corrections, reprint, and check whether you missed anything. This is especially useful when you're working with repetitive material. The changes you put in will be colored, making it easier to catch mistakes in the rest of the text. Why does this work? The highlighted version is, once again, something new for your eyes to focus on.

Besides the familiar tricks of the trade (use a ruler, read backwards to check spelling, etc.), I also like to make a style sheet. This way I have running list of special spellings, specific usage (like serial commas), and other items I need to track throughout the project. And it keeps other work done for the same client uniform.

For now, however, revel in the fact that you don't have this problem, serve yourself a cup of coffee, and maybe jot down a few names of people who can help keep you from wringing your hands over short turnaround times.

MITA's Laura Tamayo Gamborino is a writer, translator, trainer, editor and proofreader, all of which provide her with ample opportunity to experience the ticking clock.

Conferences and Workshops in 2008

Every professional needs to hone and update his or her skills in order to maintain a high standard of quality. In years past, there haven't always been many options available to those of us in the translation and interpreting industry.

2008, however, promises to break that pattern:

ATA and **HITA** will offer a **Medical Seminar** in Houston on **February 23-24**. Subjects will include how to overcome the unique challenges of medical translation and interpreting, a study of medical records, and a look at cardiovascular procedures. *(An ATA certification exam will be offered in the afternoon of February 24.)*

www.atanet.org/pd/medical or www.hitagroup.org

Masterword will present their "Inside Civil Litigation" **seminar** in the DFW Metroplex on **Saturday, March 1**. *This seminar is approved by the TDLR for 8 CE credits for Licensed Court Interpreters and by the ATA for 5 CE credits.* Guest speaker: Ramon M. Del Villar, J.D., a staff interpreter for the United States District Court in Houston and a faculty member of the Agnese Haury Institute for Interpretation. Although this course is specifically designed for the licensed court interpreter, it is also beneficial for those who are interested in court interpreting.

www.masterword.com

Cook Children's Medical Center and **CyraCom** are offering a **3-day medical interpreting seminar** in Ft. Worth beginning **March 8**. The course is open to the general public and covers the fundamentals of medical interpreting.

www.cyracom.com

MITA is planning a day of **workshops** for **late March**. Venue and speaker scheduling are being finalized by the committee. Look for the specifics to hit your inbox in the next couple of weeks. www.dfw-mita.com

Miami Dade College is hosting its **Fourth Immigration Terminology Conference** for Interpreters and Translators in Miami, Florida, on **March 22, 2008**. Immigration Judge Michael C. Horn and Supervisory Interpreter Héctor A. Suco are the scheduled presenters.

www.mdc.edu

TAHIT, the Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators, is planning on holding their second annual **Symposium** in the DFW Metroplex this **Spring**. More details will be provided as they become available.

www.tahit.org

The **University of Arizona National Center for Interpretation** will offer an **FCICE Written Test Prep Seminar** for individuals interested in federal court interpreting certification. The seminar will be held in Houston on **June 14-15**.

nci.arizona.edu

The **National Center for Interpretation** and the **Agnese Haury Institute** at the University of Arizona also remind us that they hold **ongoing seminars** for interpreters and translators at different locations around the country. Anyone interested is invited to check out their website. In addition, they have recently released self-study materials for medical interpreting.

nic.arizona.edu

January 2008

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		

Bank holidays:

January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 18: Presidents' Day

Events:

January 30: AWP Conference (www.awpwriter.org)

February 23-24: ATA/HITA Medical Seminar, Houston (www.atanet.org)

February 24: ATA certification exam sitting, Houston (www.atanet.org)

February 2008

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
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