

# Translation and Interpreting

as a profession

## Some Basic Facts:

- Translation is written.
- Interpreting is spoken.
- Translators and interpreters work from their second language into their native language.
- Being bilingual is not enough. Additional training is necessary.

Translators usually specialize in a certain field:

Advertising and marketing	Business contracts
Educational materials	Employee manuals
Energy	Environmental protection
European Union (or other politics)	Finance
Government entities or non-profits	IT
Legal	Literary
Manufacturing	Media and entertainment
Medical	Technology
Websites / localization	Editing

# Translators work in a variety of settings.

- Private sector (international companies, law firms, hospitals, etc.)
- Public sector (government, politics, legal system, military, law enforcement, etc.)
- Freelance (in-house at an agency or at home)

# Translation is more than word for word substitution.

I am going.

I am fine.

How are you doing?

To be

Run down the stairs

# Translation is more than word for word substitution.

I am going.

Yo voy.

I am fine.

Estoy bien.

How are you doing?

Como estas?

To be

ser or estar?

Run down the stairs

Bajar las escaleras corriendo

False Friends:

éxito vs. exit

embarazada vs. embarrassed

introducir vs. introduce

constipado vs. constipated

Metaphors and idioms:

Ser del año de la pera

Estar sin blanca

A buen hambre no hay pan duro.



Ads / Localization:

More Breakfast, More Amazing!

¡Mas y mas y mas rico!

# Translation practice:

Write down an example translation that shows one of these:

- Differences in number of words
- Structural differences in the language
- False friends
- Idioms / metaphors
- Cultural differences (used in advertisements, for example)

# Technology

Will human translators even be needed in the future?

US Bureau of Labor and Statistics AND CareerBuilders.com project a large growth in translation and interpreting jobs between 2012 and 2022.

YES! It's a growing profession! Why?

- Globalization
- Huge amounts of data being produced (3 trillion gigabytes every day)
- Lots of this gets translated by machine, but lots still needs to be translated by a human.

# Technology, cont'd

When do you need a human translator?

- High level of professionalism
- Excellent writing
- Humor, emotions, common sense
- Selling your product effectively (what's going to grab attention?)
- Protecting your client legally (the wording is everything in legalese)
- Getting a complicated medical diagnosis correct
- Touching someone's heart with a beautiful poem, prayer, essay, or novel

# Current translator technology

Translators do their work using special software tools:

- CAT (Computer-assisted translation)
- TenT (Translation environment tools)

Translators leverage off previously translated work (their own or machine generated) to do their work more efficiently!

Technology is an opportunity, not an obstacle to translators.

# Translation is a great career choice!

- It's a growing profession!
- You can make a good living doing something that is interesting, rewarding, and enjoyable.
- Translators are bridges of communication and bring people together. This is rewarding in and of itself, and also offers many service opportunities.
- It's very flexible!
- It's interesting, diverse, and mind-broadening. You are always learning something new, and have the opportunity to travel for work.

# How can YOU become a translator or interpreter?

- Keep learning Spanish!
- Keep doing well in English (good writing skills in English are necessary!)
- Go to college or university with an undergraduate translation program (such as the University of Illinois)
- OR go to any college and major in anything you like, while also taking Spanish.
- After college, take classes to become certified (or a MA in translation).
- Get involved in the ATA and take their certification exam.

# American Translators Association

[www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)



# References:

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