

# NOTIS NEWS

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Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society  
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P.O. Box 25301, Seattle, WA 981252201

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August 1988

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## Panel Discussion Lively and Informative

Our July meeting featured a panel of speakers occupied in different types of translation areas as diverse as literary and highly technical.

Ron Granich, who translates Japanese-English technical materials, gave a profile of a typical J-E sci-tech translator and emphasized the importance of producing quality translations in field-specific areas. Ron also discussed average pay rates for his language pair (\$0.08 to \$0.10 per word), some problem areas such as how best to estimate the number of English words from the Japanese kanji original, and trends among J-E translators (using desk-top publishing for value-added translations, transmitting work by FAX and modem, etc.).

Steven Murray and Tiina Nunally, who are translators and publishers of Scandinavian literature, discussed the challenges and subtleties of literary translation. The literary translator must be particularly knowledgeable about cultural and historical aspects of the country he is dealing with. He must be able to understand regionalisms and hidden meanings in the original novel and render a translation which reads like an English-language original while remaining faithful to the foreign author's intent. Steve and Tiina also pointed out the advantages of being able to consult with the author. As publishers, they plan to expand and include other (non-Scandinavian) novels, and they are always interested in hearing about new projects in the field of literary

translation. (Query letters may be sent to Fjord Press, P.O. Box 16501, Seattle, WA 98116)

Judy Langley talked about the United Nations English translation service. After giving an overview of the U.N. services and overseas offices, entry requirements for translators and categories of positions which exist (note: currently a hiring freeze is in effect due to budget restrictions), she discussed her personal experience at the U.N. as a French/English and Spanish/English translator. Her duties consist of translating reports and a variety of other documents, and of precis writing (producing concise summaries of the proceedings of meetings). (Judy lives in Seattle now, but occasionally she returns to New York on special conference assignments.)

Laura Parma-Veigel talked about her background in languages in Italy and discussed her current work as a translator of computer manuals into Italian for software companies. She stressed the importance of developing glossaries in order to achieve consistency within a manual and to provide continuity in the various manuals, which are often inter-related. She further talked about the necessity of teamwork with the software developer and editors. She especially stressed the usefulness of a computer for freelance translators, pointing out that a computer can enhance productivity, increase accuracy and give immediate access (via modem) to clients and colleagues everywhere.

NOTIS Calendar:

August Meeting: Wednesday, August 31, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Washington Academy of Languages, 98 Yesler Way (off Pioneer Square), Seattle

Program: Speaker: ATA President-Elect Dr. Deanna Hammond. She will give an overview of the upcoming ATA Conference in October and talk about different aspects of our work as a Translators Society. There will also be some time set apart for committee members to meet for the first time and discuss how each NOTIS committee is going to function in order to fulfill the tasks appropriate to the particular committee. Members who do not wish to participate in this activity will meet together with a Steering Committee member to discuss topics of general interest.

October 12-16, 1988: the ATA Annual Conference.

Oct. 16 One-day workshop on consecutive and simultaneous interpretation in Vancouver, B.C. Registration fee is \$60 including breakfast and lunch. For information call Vancouver Community College, (604) 324-5323

Other meetings of interest to translators and interpreters:

Sept. 27-29 Ninth Annual Office Products & Systems Show, at the Seattle Center Coliseum. Seminars and "hands-on" workshops on various computer applications, including word processing and desktop publishing. Cost: \$5 for three-day pass to exhibit area. Seminars are free. For more info, call Business Exhibitors Northwest (206)447-9889.

Oct. 5-7 IEEE 1988 International Professional Communication Conference, at the Stouffer Madison Hotel, Seattle. This conference, ON THE EDGE A Pacific Rim Conference on Professional Technical Communication represents the first time that the issues of international trade and the exchange of technology along the Pacific Rim has been related to the problems of technical communications. Writers, editors and technical communicators from many countries will attend. For complete information call Angela Henrick, (206)547-1888

Japanese Program at ATA Conference:

Those of you who have seen the preliminary program for the conference or have read the July 1988 ATA CHRONICLE know that a number of exciting sessions have been planned by the Japanese Language Division of ATA. For the benefit of other interested individuals below follows a summary of those activities. There will be a tour of Aldus Corporation featuring a demonstration of the Kanji Pacemaker and a discussion on desktop publishing and on translation services in Japan. Topics of conference talks include: "Basic Information About the Japanese Language" (for non-Japanese speaking conference attendees), "The Informatization of Japan "Translation-Oriented Terminology," "Why Are the Japanese Working on Machine Translation?" and "Japanese 'Logic' and the training of Translators of Japanese." There will also be several practical workshops, such as "Translation of Japanese Pharmaceutical Documentation and Terminology" and "Techniques in Japanese-English and English-Japanese Translation." The Japanese Language Division will also have its first official meeting during the conference and, furthermore, a Japanese dinner has been planned. For more information on the Japanese program contact Ron Granich at 282-6001.

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**Non-ATA members, please note:** *If you are thinking of attending the ATA Conference, now is the time to act. The Conference registration fee is \$105 for non-ATA members before Sept. 1 and \$115 after Sept. 1. For ATA members it is \$20 less in each case. Moreover, a special membership fee of \$75 for individual members (\$37.50 for students) is in effect now for membership through 1989 (\$50 for membership through 1988 only. Call (206) 361-0369 or 487-1462 if you want to receive the ATA Conference registration package.*

Members in the news:

Congratulations to Dominique Blachon who recently passed the Eng/Fr. ATA accreditation test.

Michael Broschat, co-chairman of the Computer in Translation committee, will give a talk on "The Computer as a Tool for Technical Translation" at the 1988 IPCC Conference. His presentation on Oct. 7 forms part of the "Translation for International Communication" section of the conference (see also NOTIS calendar).

In memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the untimely passing of NOTIS member Ulrike Criminale, who died in a mountain climbing accident on July 31. Our sincere condolences to Ulrike's family and close associates. We shall miss her, as will other community groups to which she gave so much of her time.

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Program Notes - by Susana Stettri-Sawrey, Programs Committee Chair.

We are thinking ahead and still trying to guess what topics of discussion and presentations would be of interest to our members. Below are some suggestions for future programs we picked up from different sources:

- Accounting and tax tips for the self-employed.
- Contact with international business-related organizations.
- Insurance: Medical and liability coverage for the free-lancer.
- Translation users' panel discussion.
- Hands-on computer application workshop(s).
- Court and conference interpreting presentations.
- Glossary exchange. This would also be linked to workshops or ongoing work groups.
- Watch a foreign film and study its subtitles.

We encourage and, indeed, entreat you, to indicate your preferences and to send us additional ideas, as well as the names of speakers or panelists, so that our programs truly address the interests and needs of our membership. Drop us a note (at NOTIS P.O.Box 25301, Seattle, WA 98125-2201, attn: Programs Committee) or phone me, Susana, at 632-6712!

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Advertising rates: 1/8th page block: \$15 first insertion: \$10 each additional one (less 20% for members). Classified ads (members only): \$0.25 per word.

Computer Talk - Automated Thinking  
By Richard Patner

In discoursing on macros at the introductory meeting of NOTIS, it occurred to me that the topic actually involved a means of automated thinking executed by macros. (A macro is an arrangement using a computer in which numerous keystrokes are executed via one simple order.) By automated thinking I mean the man-machine interface (to use computer jargon). This is important because this process enables you to type and think faster.

Some people equate speed with sloppiness. To paraphrase Barry Goldwater (something I never thought I'd do), alacrity in translation is no vice, and lethargy is no virtue. Speed is virtuous because it permits your thoughts to flow more smoothly, thereby enabling you to fill in the omissions found in the original text by reading between the lines with greater ease.

Translation involves three basic factors: the need to rearrange the foreign text into English form, the need to convert the foreign terms into English terms, and the physical generation of English. Macros are extremely useful for dealing with each of these aspects. There are special macro programs which allow you to redefine a keyboard. With such a program you can assign anything you want to any key.

Japanese, which I translate, is arranged in an order which is slightly different from that of English (fortunately). In handling any sentence, I translate a block of text and then examine the next block. If it follows the first block, I hit a hard return and enter the second block. If the next block, the third block, precedes the second block, I enter {MACRO jjj} (MACRO refers to my macro key. The operation is actually macro key + letter(s) + hard return) - (j because it is in the center of the keyboard and I am right handed). The cursor searches for [hard return] and jumps there. If, instead, this third block belongs at the beginning of the sentence, I hit {MACRO jjj} and the cursor searches for (period + space + space + hard return) and jumps there. I know that the previous sentence ended with a period, two spaces and a hard return because I hit {ALT o} (entering a period, two spaces, and a hard return) when I finished the previous sentence. When I have finished the current sentence, I hit {ALT b}, whereupon the macro capitalizes the first letter of the sentence and removes all hard returns. I hit {Alt o} to put in the period. I then hit {Alt 8} and that macro saves the document. Actually, at the end of each sentence, I hit {Alt o 8}. Yes, I save my text after every single sentence. I then enter the next block to begin translation of the next sentence.

The second factor involves conversion of foreign terms into English. Macros are essential in this step because they enable me to 'translate' without thinking, in an automated fashion. I assign a macro to each major Japanese term as it appears. 'Major' connotes a term which will occur throughout the text, You soon figure out which terms will recur once you start the job. The macro for each noun is named by taking the first letter of each kanji (syllable) comprising the term. Thus, KaRyuSokuShinZai, vulcanization accelerator. would be KRSSZ. The macro for each verb is named by assigning two letters, from either Japanese or English, for the root of the verb, followed by adding a third letter for the declension. Thus, OXE = oxidize, OXD = oxidized. OXS = (obvious). You can see how easy it is to remember the names of the macros.

The third problem is the physical generation of English. To address this aspect of translation, I have assigned macros to the most commonly used words (such as: as, be, may be, have been, had been, etc.) and they are executed by {CTRL + one letter, no hard return}. Other macros on my hard disk are terms I use so often that translation occurs instantly. These are executed by {MACRO + set of letters}. Examples include BEG = because, BET = between, BEL = believe, PMR = polymer, PMD polymerized, PMN = polymerization, LOT = in order to, IA = in addition. The list of this set is quite long.

Macros are also used to reduce a set of multiple commands required by a word processing program for execution of an action down to a short macro. Examples include {MACRO zb} = capitalize the current word (when the cursor is at the end of the word) and jump to the end of the word, {Macro zbb} = capitalize the current word (when the cursor is at the end of the word) but then jump to the space before the word. The difference between zb and zbb is that the latter is used with a repeating number (N in Word Perfect) in order to capitalize a series of words after they have been entered. The macros zf and zff, which capitalize in the other direction, are different in that zf capitalizes the current word if you are on the first letter of that word. The cursor then jumps to the end of that word. {Macro zff} jumps to the next word, capitalizes it and stops. Either of these can be used to capitalize a series of words.

The system is actually more complex to explain than it is to operate. The advantages, in addition to increased speed of generation, thereby improving comprehension (as if that weren't enough), are absolute uniformity of the terminology used and improved spelling (It eliminates typos which a spell checker misses, such as fore/for).

The system is operated by creating a directory called STOR/WORK which is copied to the directory WORK before each job. After the job, the directory WORK is erased to remove the macros which were unique to that translation. That eliminates the problem of filling the hard disk with junk.

The final question you, gentle reader, may entertain is the question of how to find the function keys quickly to make things happen. I solved this problem by taking a soldering iron and burning the tops of specific keys, including the control key, the numbers 4 and 6 (because they double as the left and right arrows), and the left arrow key (to the left of the ESC key on my keyboard). This also has the salutary effect of repaying the computer in kind for all of the aggravation which it caused me in learning how to make it work when I began to use it.

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NOTIS officers and committee chairpersons:

Judy Langley, President.	Jean Leblon, Secretary	Laura Parma-Veigel, Treasurer
Chaouky Kaboul, Membership	Helen Szablya, Publicity	
Susana Stettri-Sawrey, Program	Albert Feldmann, Market Research	
Betty Merino-Strawe, Liaison	Patricia Blanchett-Lee, Telephone	
Michael Broschat + Richard Patner, Computers in Translation		

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Next deadline for submitting materials: Sept. 26. Editor: Willy Evans