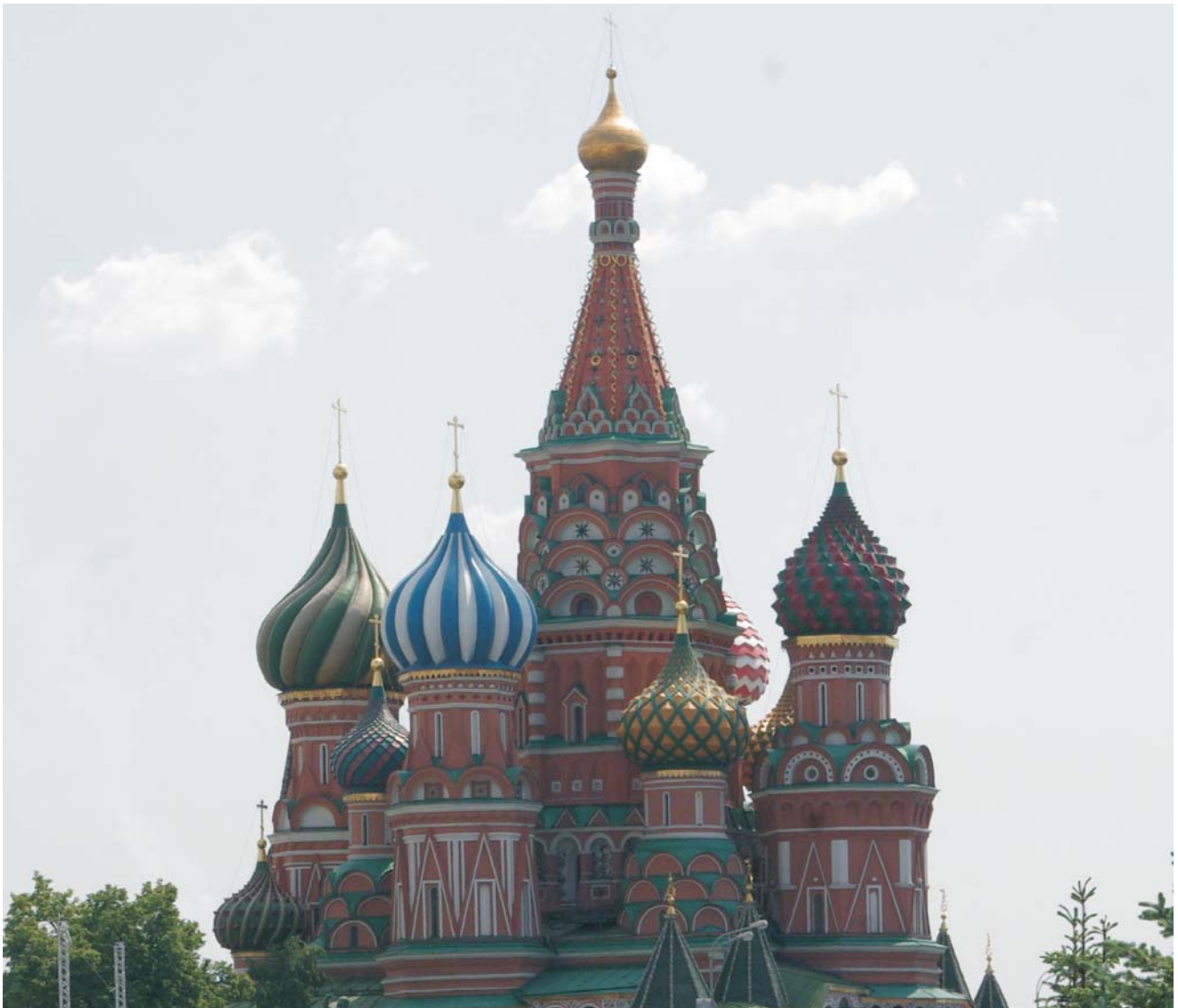




December 2011

Translation tariffs – research results

The new Companies Act – what you need to know



Event feedback

Book review

The South African Translators' Institute and its Council



Chairperson/Voorsitter

Anne-Marie Beukes
Tel: 011 559 2694
Fax: 086 667 6100
chair@translators.org.za



Vice-chair/Ondervoorsitter

Johan Blaauw
Tel: 018 299 4890
Fax: 018 299 4462
johan@translators.org.za



Council member/Raadslid

Beverley Boland
Tel: 011 783 7594
secretary@translators.org.za



Council member/Raadslid

Manzo Khulu
Tel: 011 693 7237
manzo@translators.org.za



Council member/Raadslid

Michelle Rabie
Tel: 012 347 0057
michelle@translators.org.za



Executive director/Uitvoerende direkteur

Marion Boers
Tel: 011 803 2681
Fax: 0866 199 133
office@translators.org.za

SATI Committees

Ethics Committee

Wilna Liebenberg (chair)
Annette Combrink
Irene Dippenaar
Manzo Khulu

Accreditation Committee

Wannie Carstens
Eleanor Cornelius
Sonwabile Cotiyana
Linda Hodgkinson
Vuyelwa Miya
Leonard Moloi
Marietjie Nelson
Thomas Ntuli
Michelle Viljoen
Johan Blaauw (SATI Council member)
Marion Boers (SATI Executive Director)
Beverley Boland (SATI Accreditation Officer) (chair)

Muratho Editorial Board

Marion Boers (chair)
Ilze Brüggemann
Yvonne Malindi
Sibulelo Msomi
Grit Naidoo-Goedecke
Adri Theron
Lungile Zungu

The South African Translators' Institute

Virtual Office

c/o Marion Boers
Tel: 011 803 2681
Fax: 0866 199 133
office@translators.org.za

Registrar

Tel: 079 492 9359
Fax: 086 511 4971
registrar@translators.org.za

PO Box 1710
2128 Rivonia

Chapter Chairpersons/Afdelingsvoorsitters

Boland

Wilna Liebenberg
Tel: 082 824 8910
Fax: 086 502 2074
wilna@lieben.co.za

Members who wish to re-establish the Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu-Natal or Interpreters Chapters should contact the SATI office. The same applies to anyone wishing to start a new chapter

The SATI constitution makes provision for members to form chapters if they wish 'to

be recognised as a distinct group on the grounds of their geographic proximity to one another or of a common interest that is acceptable to the Institute'. Chapters are formal structures of the Institute and operate in terms of a set of regulations approved by the members of the Institute. The intention of chapters is to offer members opportunities for networking and professional advancement, which can often be more readily achieved at a local rather than a national level.



SATI Web-site:

<http://www.translators.org.za>
(South African Translators' Institute)

FIT Web-site:

<http://www.fit-ift.org>
(International Federation of Translators)



**Journal of the South
African Translators'
Institute**

**Jenale ya Mokgatlo ho
Bafetoledi wa Aforika
Borwa**

**Dzhenala ya Inisitituti ya
Vhaphinduleli ya Afrika
Tshipembe**

Muratho is the Venda term for 'a bridge', the symbol of the communicative activity facilitated by language workers

Muratho, ke lereo la SeVenda le le kayang 'borogo', sekai sa tiro ya tlaeletsano e e dirwang ke badiri ka puo

Muratho ndi ipfi la Tshivenda line la amba 'buroho', tshine tsha v ha tshigatsha vhudavhidzani tshine tsha shumiswa nga vhashumi v ha nyambo

Information on the name of the journal is given in English plus two other official languages on a rotational basis (in this issue Tswana and Venda).

Muratho accepts articles in all the South African official languages, provided they are accompanied by an English summary.

Published by the South African Translators' Institute
PO Box 1710
Rivonia
2128
South Africa
office@translators.org.za
http://www.translators.org.za

Editor: Marion Boers
Tel: 011 803 2681
E-mail:
publications@translators.org.za

This publication is subject to copyright and no material may be reproduced without the prior permission of the publisher

Views expressed are those of the authors and are not necessarily supported by the editor or publisher

Subscriptions: Contact the editor

ISSN: 1680-1938

Layout: Marion Boers



Volume 11 Number 2 December 2011

CONTENTS

IN PRACTICE / IN DIE PRAKTYK

- 3** Paying the piper: A study into freelance translation tariffs in South Africa
- 8** 'n Inleiding tot die nuwe Maatskappywet
- 9** An introduction to the new Companies Act
- 23** Resensie: Baanbreker vir die Afrikaanse taalpraktisyn

REPORT-BACK / TERUGVOER

- 14** An all-round learning experience
- 16** Transfiction
- 17** XhosAfrika-konferensie bekyk status van isiXhosa
- 18** Bridging cultures in the Western Cape
- 20** ITD 2011: An informal celebration by the SATI clan
- 21** Translation: A window to another culture

PEOPLE / MENSE

- 7** Looking towards the future

GENERAL / ALGEMEEN

- 2** Editor's notes
- 22** Snippets

Cover photo: The spires of St Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, Russia. Photo by Reinoud Boers
Other photos in this issue: Roxana Vlasu, Gretha Aalbers, Michelle Rabie, Gizela Mendes, Mari-Leigh Pienaar, Marion Boers



Editor's Notes

As I finalise this issue of *Muratho*, the year-end is nearing and as is common my thoughts have been turning to the year that is closing and what the new year might bring.

It is generally accepted that 2011 has been a hard year. The economic climate was poor all over the world, and in some ways we in South Africa have been more fortunate than many in more developed parts of the world. None the less, I think most people are looking forward to closing this chapter and hoping that 2012 will bring a fresh wind with more positive fruits.

For the Institute too it has been a year of hard work but a lot of frustration. It seems that everyone is getting busier and busier and there are fewer and fewer people with time available to devote to voluntary work. Many good ideas do not come to fruition because there are not enough hands to implement them.

2012 will be a big year for SATI. For one thing, we will be awarding the SATI Prizes for Outstanding Translation and Dictionaries for the fifth time (remember to get your nominations in!). That in itself is quite an achievement, and a great deal of work goes into assessing the entries and deciding on the winners. This time we will be combining the presentation of the prizes with a two-day conference, which we plan to make a regular event in the same year as the prizes are awarded. We hope to see many of you there and also that you will consider presenting a paper.

In addition, 2012 is an election year – the first election since we adopted our new constitution in 2009. The new constitution requires us to find new persons to become involved in running the Institute on a regular basis, with the aim of avoiding burn-out and stagnation. The Council has really benefited from the new blood over the past three years. So have you the members – we have tackled a number of projects in innovative and refreshing ways that came about through fresh eyes and ways of doing things. All this has benefited you as members and the profession as a whole.

We would like to see this positive energy continue, but without members prepared to put something back into the profession that will not happen. So I appeal to all of you to think about making yourself available: either for election to Council or as a member of one of the committees that assist Council, or in some other capacity where you have expertise. You don't have to jump in at the deep end – you can start with a small job and build up to a Council position! You will be amazed at how you find the more you become involved, the more you actually gain too, in learning about how the Institute and the profession operate at a deeper level. You may then realise why some things are done in certain ways and why other things don't happen. Perhaps with your help they can!

Talk to the current Council members and they will all tell you how their professional and personal lives have been enriched through their involvement with the Institute. Yes, it requires a sacrifice of time, and not always at points that are convenient to you. But the rewards far outweigh the frustrations, and the knowledge that you have helped build your profession is priceless.

So give it some thought, and when we call for nominations next year I hope we will have a multitude of members putting up their hands!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who have stepped forward and become involved: my colleagues on Council, those involved in chapter and committee work, those who do voluntary translation for us, those who produce material for our magazine and newsletters and say 'yes' to other tasks when we need them ... thank you all – you make us stronger.

Until next time

Marion

Paying the piper

A study into freelance translation tariffs in South Africa

As a result of globalisation, the demand for translation around the world has grown exponentially since the 1970s (Gil & Pym 2002:5) and is forecast to keep increasing. One would have expected higher demand to push rates higher, but this didn't happen, indicating that there must be specific factors that determine the price of translation. Despite the increase in demand, Samuelsson-Brown (2004:45) notes that the average hourly rate for translation is still less than that for skilled tradesmen and more or less in line with the rate paid for secretarial services.

A review of the literature on the subject revealed that, with the exception of the United States of America and some instances in South Korea (Bahk-Halberg 2009:194), translators are poorly paid worldwide, with some writers on the subject labelling it as 'exploitation' (Venuti 1999:17) by publishers, who control what is translated and by whom at whatever rate they decide is fair (De Jong 1999:423). The question now arises: are Afrikaans/English translators in SA also being underpaid?

Tariff survey

To answer this question, research was conducted using a questionnaire. It aimed firstly to survey actual rates being charged by Afrikaans/English translators and secondly to determine what an ideal rate would be. Thirdly, the perceptions of translators were sampled to find out which factors they believed impacted on their rates. The study was populated by Afrikaans/English translators from both the South African Translators' Institute (SATI) and The Centre for Translation and Professional Language Services (CTrans) at NWU.

Stressing that a 'guesstimate' amount would defeat the main purpose of the study, respondents were asked to calculate their actual tariff by adding up all invoiced amounts for the 2009 financial year and dividing that by the total word count for all translation jobs. This would give them a flat rate per word and would allow respondents to see how much they were *actually* being paid.

Are Afrikaans/English translators in SA being underpaid or is this a false perception among practitioners? If so, what are the reasons for this and how can the situation be remedied?

Respondents also had to give an ideal rate, i.e. a reasonable rate that didn't exploit the client, but was felt to be in line with the qualifications, experience, skills and specialised knowledge of the translator.

Survey results

Responses from questionnaires were recorded in Microsoft Excel. To ensure accuracy, data was double-checked against original responses. Next, the data was subjected to statistical analysis in *Statistica*.

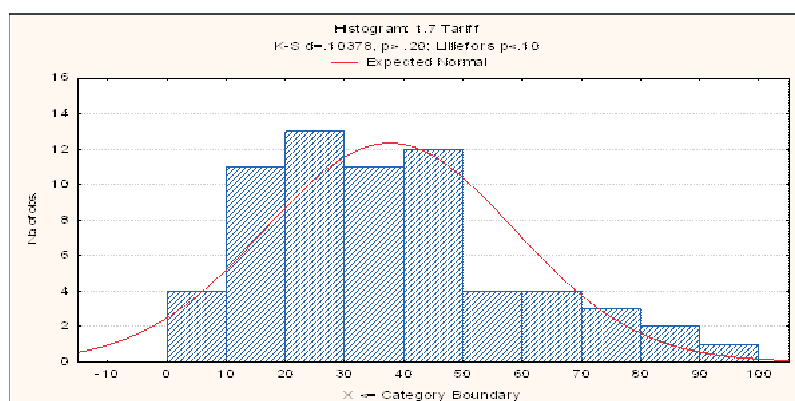
Actual rates

The average rate charged for translation in the Afrikaans/English language combination is 37,6c per word. In other words R37,60 per 100 words translated. This is somewhat surprising, since the latest available survey done by SATI (in 2008) recorded an average of 46c per word for Afrikaans/English translation (SATI 2008). Since the population of this study overlaps significantly with that of the SATI tariff survey in this category, the discrepancy of 9c per word merits some consideration. Perhaps the SATI tariff survey, which '... serves as a reflection of the price of translation in the marketplace' (SATI 2008) is closer to an ideal rate participants would like to see than a real-world flat rate based on actual invoiced amounts. Another possible reason for this discrepancy could be that respondents of the SATI survey submitted a rough estimate, instead of doing an actual calculation, as was requested by this study. Even in this study, it is apparent that not all respondents had followed the calculation procedure as they submitted round figures (e.g. 40c), which are unlikely results of the calculation, which would in most cases rather have resulted in a fraction (e.g. 40,2c).

Article by
Henriëtte Visser.
This article has been adapted from her mini-dissertation on freelance translation tariffs in SA. E-mail magicmedia@lantic.net to obtain a free copy of the dissertation. Henriëtte runs her own language practice business and also writes variety of technical and commercial copy.

The danger is that translators who refer to the SATI tariff survey with its higher flat rate might perceive themselves to be underpaid, when in fact they are not. Should these translators then use the SATI tariff survey as a guideline when quoting, they could lose out to others who do not refer to these tariffs. This might create a false perception of undercutting by other professionals.

The median reported for this study of 34c per word is an even larger deviation from the median of 45c per word in the SATI tariff survey (SATI 2008). This again seems to suggest that *actual rates* are lower than those suggested by the SATI tariff survey.



Distribution of responses for actual rates

The histogram in the figure indicates the distribution of actual tariffs charged by respondents. The huge variance between the extremes is immediately evident. Tariffs range from less than 1c to 93,3c per word, which explains why it is so hard to suggest a general going rate for translation.

The fact that some translators are paid less than 5c (and in one case less than a cent) while others earn almost R1 per word explains why clients can always find a cheaper quote. This reinforces the unprofessional practice of undercutting among translators, which is expected to continue until such time as a statutory body can standardise and enforce rates.

It is encouraging to note that some 68% of responses fall into the broad mid-section of translators who earn between 20c and 70c per word. It has to be said, though, that there is still a large gap between 20c and 37,6c, which is the average, and translators who fall in this band cannot be said to earn a reasonable income. Some 32% of responses fall on either the upper or lower end of the scale. Thus, while the majority of translators are at least earning around the mean of 37c per word, 23% of respondents are badly underpaid, earning substantially less than the

average rate, and 9% are paid in excess of the majority.

Ideal tariffs

Respondents think the ideal rate for Afrikaans/English translation should be somewhere between 50c and 58c per word, with the average ideal rate indicated as 57,7c and the median as 50c per word translated.

When comparing the average of actual tariffs with those of the ideal tariffs, an increase of 20,1c per word or some 53,46% is evident. Although this is a substantial increase, the ideal average of 57,7c cannot be said to be unreasonable or unrealistic when one compares it with the 46c that was the average rate reported in the 2008 SATI tariff survey.

Comparing actual rates with ideal rates, it is clear that the vast majority of respondents (91,05%) considered themselves underpaid. Only 7,46% of respondents felt that their actual tariff was close enough to their ideal tariffs and only one respondent (1,49%) felt that his actual tariff was more than the ideal rate he set.

The overwhelming majority of 92,5% of respondents indicated that they could not survive on the income from translation alone and 58,2% said they had an alternative source of income. Respondents list a wide range of other paying jobs that they work at in order to make up the shortfall in their income. In addition to language-related jobs like editing, proofreading and writing, teaching and lecturing feature prominently as main sources of income for freelance translators. Seven respondents (10,45%) are pensioners and rely on their pension as an independent income. They view their translation income as a bonus on top of their main livelihood.

Reasons for underpayment

Some 13 factors that impact translation tariffs were identified from the literature and respondents were asked to rank these factors in order of importance by assigning a number between 1 and 13 to each item. The most important reason for low payment would then be number 1, while number 13 would be the factor that least impacted translation tariffs in SA.

The table on page 5 indicates how many respondents regarded the various negative pricing factors as being either the most important or among the top three most important reasons that Afrikaans/English translation tariffs are so low. Note that the values given indicate number of responses and are not percentages.

The single most important reason why translators in the Afrikaans/English language pair are underpaid is client ignorance regarding the skills and knowledge needed to translate. While not a single respondent thought the inability of clients to distinguish between good and poor translation was the most important reason for poor payment, 14 respondents listed it as either the second or third most important factor. When you add these 14 responses to the 36 of item one, which also addresses the issue of client ignorance, it indicates that client ignorance, more than any other factor, is responsible for poor payment of translators.

Competition from amateur bilinguals, who are not qualified translators, was ranked as the second most important reason for poor translator payment. Lowest-bid practices used by clients when awarding jobs was ranked as the third most important factor influencing pricing. This proves that lowest-bid practices is a future trend that is also prominent in the Afrikaans/English language pair in South Africa. This supports Katan's (2009:188) claim that lowest-bid practices are a future trend and looks set to continue.

Closely linked to this is the fourth issue, i.e. unprofessional practices of other translators willing to work at rock-bottom rates. One could say that the lowest-bid practices actually cause the unprofessional behaviour of some translators who are willing to work at very low rates. Remarks submitted in open-ended questions about translation tariffs echo this. 'Clients simply do not care about quality, time or skills involved. They just want the lowest price,' one respondent alleged. Katan (2009:188) also links the downturn in quality of translation to lowest-bid practices. It follows logically that when the lowest price is the only criterion, amateurs or bilinguals who do not have the necessary skills and knowledge will produce substandard translations.

Another 19 similar comments were submitted, many adding that they would rather work for a lower tariff than not have any work at all. This is a strong indication that translators don't have much bargaining power when it comes to the setting of rates. Clients seem to unilaterally decide on and pay the rates they feel is fair. When you consider that the prime reason for poor payment indicated by respondents is client ignorance regarding the skills and knowledge necessary to translate, it becomes clear why clients feel a low rate is justified.

At least 20 respondents ranked the lack of professional status of translators among the top three reasons why rates are so low. One

respondent commented that SATI's rates are four times higher than what her clients are prepared to pay. If SATI or another organisation could gain statutory powers, minimum rates could be standardised and enforced among members. Not only would this go some way towards forcing clients to comply with reasonable rates, but it would also eliminate unprofessional behaviour of undercutting by members of this organisation.

Surprisingly few respondents felt that the high rate of Afrikaans/English bilingualism was the most important reason for poor tariffs in this language combination.

E-tools and translation software are not regarded as reasons for poor translator payment. This is to be expected, since very few programs currently exist offering translation memories and software that translates from or into Afrikaans.

Translator invisibility and lack of authorial rights are rated 10th and 12th respectively. These two factors are closely linked, as they both have to do with the position of the translator relative to that of the author of the source text. Since Afrikaans/English translation of literary works is marginal in South Africa when compared with the volumes done in other countries like Holland, it is understandable that so few respondents rated these two factors as important.

"Competition from amateur bilinguals, who are not qualified translators, was ranked as the second most important reason for poor translator payment."

	Factors in order of importance as rated by respondents	Top 1	Top 3
1	Ignorance of clients regarding the skills and knowledge needed to translate	17	36
2	Competition from amateur translators or bilinguals who are not qualified translators	8	29
3	Lowest-bid practices used by clients when awarding jobs	8	17
4	Unprofessional practices of other translators willing to work at rock-bottom rates	7	21
5	Lack of professional status	7	20
6	High rate of English/Afrikaans bilingualism in South Africa	6	13
7	Competition from graduates in other fields like law, medicine, teaching	6	11
8	Agencies and broker commissions	5	11
9	Competition from graduates in other language services like editing, proofreading	3	11
10	Translator invisibility (smooth translation makes it seem as if the translator did not add any value to the text)	2	7
11	Translation memory software and other e-tools	2	4
12	Lack of authorial rights (only writers or authors are seen and paid as creators of text)	1	5
13	Inability of clients to distinguish between good and poor translations	0	14

Other findings

Respondents link professional payment with the establishment of a professional body that can enforce rates and check quality.

There is a scarcity of translation jobs in the Afrikaans/English language pair, owing to a prevailing attitude among clients that everyone in SA can understand English and translation into Afrikaans is therefore largely unnecessary.

Clients don't budget for translation. Respondents noted that clients, especially publishers, do not want to spend money on translation. One respondent went as far as to say that authors view translation as a favour to them and thus not a value-added skill that should be compensated in monetary terms. Muzii (2005:34) notes that '... translation ... is simply *expected to be there*' (my italics). Translation costs are thus not budgeted for, nor is time allocated for it on a production schedule, although a project can often not be finalised or a product be used or sold without translation. Clients resist negotiating a rate based on word count, preferring a price to be negotiated per project. Christian publishing houses specifically are singled out as being reluctant to pay proper rates.

Translators regularly give huge discounts to clients in order to secure return business. This practice gives clients the impression that translators have been raking off a comfortable profit margin all along and that there is plenty of room for rebates (Gouadec 2007:201).

Tough economic times owing to the global recession were mentioned as a reason for poor payment. Respondents noted that they had struggled more during the last 24-months to secure jobs than in the past, which they attribute to clients cutting costs in order to stay profitable.

The low response rate of 17,64% in this study is a coincidental, but significant finding, as it reveals the reluctance of translators to participate in activities that relate to professionalisation. This apathy slows down the professionalisation process.

What can be done?

Clients have to be educated. All translators should use every opportunity to inform clients about their qualifications, experience and skills. Displaying qualifications in offices or submitting a CV at first contact are easy ways in which to draw attention to the degree of specialisation and skills needed for translation. 'We as translators ... have an obligation to the profession as a whole to

make clients aware that translating is a very demanding occupation and that quality does take time and it does cost money' (Samuelson-Brown 2004:104).

The establishment of a statutory professional body is of paramount importance. This statutory body should have the power to set and enforce rates, which will eliminate the huge variance in rates currently seen. Members of this body would have to abide by these tariffs or face expulsion. This will put an end to the unprofessional behaviour of undercutting. This in turn will stop the lowest-bid practices used by clients to drive down tariffs. Client ignorance could also be addressed, as this body would be able to inform and educate clients as to the requirements translators have to fulfil in order to attain membership. Picard (1988:32) summarises this point excellently:

When negotiating a rate, translators should resist negotiating a price per project, but should instead insist on a flat rate per word. This will, in time, break down the idea of the translator being a casual worker, who is employed to do a piece job for which she will be paid a once-off fee.

More research is needed regarding the payment of translators in SA. Perhaps clients should be surveyed in order to find out how they go about setting rates or awarding jobs.

Conclusion

It is in everyone's best interest to improve translator payment. If rates do not improve, *bona fide* translators will desert the occupation and look elsewhere for financial compensation, leaving the amateur bilingual to set the standard. This could have negative consequences for the industry and clients alike.

Much like the Pied Piper, freelance translators today are largely at the mercy of their reluctant clients who, once desperate for help, refuse to recognise the importance and value of high-quality translation once the job is done. Unless this situation is reversed, a penalty, yet to be revealed, awaits a society that refuses to pay the Piper her reasonable wage.

References

- Bahk-Halberg, JH. 2007. In their own words: Korean perspectives on becoming English interpreters/translators. Unpublished PHD dissertation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
- De Jong, E. 1999. The impact of motivation on the career commitment of Dutch literary translators. *Poetics* 26: 423-437.

[Continued on page 25]

Translation is undoubtedly one of the least remunerated jobs that can be offered to any individual
(Muzii 2005:19).

Looking **towards** the future

Nkosinathi Luthuli

When did you start your academic career?

It was in 2005 that I joined academic world. I was cognisant of the challenges and hard work that lay ahead as I entered the new world of learning at an institution of higher learning! Needless to say, I had to adapt from a high-school environment to a more advanced level of education that I, like many of the first-year students, was not familiar with. It is generally known that the research skills in the institutions of higher learning are one of the critical areas of focus, and thus I knew that I had to do a great deal of work and at times under severe pressure. I started my studies with a Language Practice programme at the then Durban Institute of Technology, now known as the Durban University of Technology. I completed my National Diploma within the stipulated time of three years and then in a similar vein I completed my BTech in 2009, also within the required period of two years. I am currently studying towards an MTech: Language Practice

How have your studies shaped your life?

Given its versatile nature, the language practice course indeed shaped the way in which I perceived the world, at least when it comes to the academic world. Learning about different cultures is in itself very enlightening. I find the field of linguistics and translation interesting yet challenging. In 2010, I was appointed a part-time lecturer in the Language Practice Programme (Department of Media, Language and Communication) at the Durban University of Technology. I have also presented a research paper in which I was led by my research supervisor. This was a great opportunity for me and I felt deeply humbled to be part of such a prestigious event. Furthermore, I have published several articles in both English and Zulu newspapers. My dream is to become a researcher of note. I would like to be identified as a leading translation authors in South Africa.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Academically, I feel the term 'bookworm' is one of the most appropriate in describing me. In this regard I read various kinds of publications, mainly academic books, journals and suchlike. I also read biographies, newspapers and magazines, and I enjoy surfing the Internet.

Sfundo Shandu

Tell us a little about yourself.

I come from Mandeni in KwaZulu-Natal. I am currently a Language Practice postgraduate in the Department of Media, Language and Communication at the Durban University of Technology. I matriculated in 2004 at Rice-cliff Secondary in Chatsworth, Durban. In 2006 I registered at DUT for a National Diploma in Language Practice and successfully achieved good results and graduated in 2009. That same year I took the step to extend my studies to BTech level within the same field of study, having completed the diploma within the required period. Because of my academic excellence, career drive and discipline, early last year I was appointed a part-time lecturer in my department in DUT. I am currently studying further towards an MTech in Language Practice. I also serve as a departmental Advisory Board member.

How have your studies shaped your life?

I have a good knowledge and understanding of how to handle students in terms of academic needs and mutual understanding. I have gained these skills from my experience as a part-time lecturer in the Public Relations and Language Practice departments at DUT. Furthermore, I have written numerous articles in newspapers in both English and Zulu. I have worked hard for the general community as a volunteer and also left a legacy as a volunteer during the 2010 World Cup.

What is your vision for the future?

Language practitioners render specialised language and communication services over a broad spectrum of fields. The reason I decided to pursue the language practice programme is to become a well-known senior language practitioner who is not only concerned with language itself but is also familiar with and understands various cultures and the translation field as a whole. The purpose of this qualification is to provide a professional approach and recognition to the people who work in the various fields of languages. Language practitioners can be employed by companies or government departments. A qualification in language practice gives students a range of skills. I am proud of the field that I chose and intend to encourage more young people to pursue a career in the language field.



Nkosinathi Luthuli



Sfundo Shandu

SATI member
Sibulelo Msomi
interviewed two
enthusiastic
language
practitioners at the
start of their
careers.

'n Inleiding tot die nuwe Maatskappywet

In Junie vanjaar het prof. Andreas van Wyk van PwC by 'n vergadering van die Boland-afdeling oor die nuwe Maatskappywet gepraat. Die Wet raak alle lede wat 'n besigheid bedryf. Hier gee ons die inhoud van die skyfies in sy voorlegging weer, wat 'n goeie aanduiding gee van die aangeleenthede waarna lede moet kyk.

Aanloop tot die nuwe wet

- Algemene aanvaarding dat Maatskappywet van 1973 verouderd is en vervang behoort te word
- In Mei 2004 publiseer die Departement van Handel en Nywerheid (H&N) beleidsriglyne vir 'n nuwe Suid-Afrikaanse Maatskappyereg
- In H&N self opgestel met hulp van Amerikaanse en Kanadese adviseurs
- Chaotiese verloop vir daaropvolgende vier jaar
- Anders as met Van Wyk de Vrieskommissie in 1973, GEEN omvattende begeleidende verslag nie; slegs 'n kort memorandum oor doelwitte en onlangse opsomming
- Finale wetsontwerp van Junie 2008 toon sterk buitelandse invloed, veral uit Delaware (VSA) en Kanada
- Parlementêre goedkeuring in November 2008
- Ondertekening deur President op 9 April 2009 as Wet 71/2008
- Soveel foute en bewoordingsprobleme in goedgekeurde wet dat wysiging van 115 artikels nodig is; goedgekeur deur Parlement laat Maart 2011
- Aangekondigde inwerkingtrede middel 2010 eers uitgestel tot 1 April 2011 en toe op 31 Maart 2011, dan skielik weer tot 1 Mei 2011
- Konsepregulasies in November 2010 vir kommentaar gepubliseer en uiteindelik eers einde April 2011 gefinaliseer
- Voorgeskrewe vorms eers op 28 April 2011 beskikbaar gestel
- *Gevallestudie van hoe regshervorming NIE aangepak moet word nie*
- Belangrike oorgangsbepalings in Bylae 5
- Institute of Directors vervang King II deur King III met ingang 1 Maart 2010

Prof. van Wyk was vroeër dekaan van die regsfakulteit by Stellenbosch Universiteit en fasiliteer opleiding oor die nuwe Maatskappywet vir PwC.

Trefwydte van wetgewing

- Herroep die hele Wet 61/1973 soos gewysig, onderworpe aan oorgangsbepalings in Bylae 5, en met uitsondering van die bepalinge oor ontbinding en likwidasie
- Herroep NIE die BK-wet van 1984 nie, maar laat nie nuwe BK-registrasies toe nie en moedig omskakeling na privaat maatskappye aan (Bylaes 2 & 3, veral par 2 van Bylae 3)
- Reël slegs die bestaan van maatskappye en sê NIKS oor vennootskappe nie
- *Behou skeidslyn tussen maatskappye en vennootskappe* (ou art 31 vervang deur nuwe art 8(3))
- *Geen beperking van aantal vennote meer nie* (Geen ekwivalent van ou art 30 nie)
- Raak die reg betreffende trusts deur die definisie van 'n "regspersoon" in art. 1 en deur die definisie van "beheer" en "filiaalverwantskappe" in arts 2 en 3
- Sluit "maatskappye in staatsbesit" in in die definisie van maatskappye met 'n winsoogmerk (art. 8(2))

Nuwe of opgekikte reguleerders

- Hele Hoofstuk 7 gewy aan regsmiddels en afdwinging
- *Artikel 22 behandel handeldryf onder insolvente omstandighede en het ernstige implikasies, selfs na wysiging in Maart 2011*
- Klem op alternatiewe geskiloplossing (art. 156)
- Vorige CIPRO opgegradeer na Kommissie (CIPC: Companies and Intellectual Property Commission) ingevolge art. 185 met strewe om Amerikaanse SEC na te boots
- PROBLEEM: Geskiedenis van chaos by CIPRO
- Oornamereguleringspaneel ingevolge art. 196
- Nuwe Maatskappytribunaal ingevolge art. 193 (in vorige ontwerpe ombudsman genoem)
- Raad vir Finansiële Verslagdoening ingevolge art. 203

Oorgangsbepalings

- Te vinde in Bylae 5
- Bestaande maatskappye bly bestaan asof opgerig ingevolge nuwe Wet (item 2)

An introduction to the new Companies Act

General background to reform

- General agreement that the Companies Act of 1973 was outdated and should be replaced
- Process started with policy guidelines published by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in May 2004, written in-house by DTI with help of American and Canadian advisers
- Shambolic over following four years
- Unlike Van Wyk de Vries Commission in 1973, NO accompanying extensive report; only short memorandum on objectives and recent summary
- Final Bill published in June 2008, still showing strong foreign influence (Delaware (US) and Canada in particular)
- Accepted by two houses of Parliament in November 2008
- Signed by President on 9 April 2009 as Act 71/2008
- Amendment Act published on 19 July 2010 to “address significant errors, infelicities and ambiguities” in Act, affecting 115 sections; adopted by Parliament in late March 2011
- Minister initially announced 1 April 2011 as date of implementation of amended Act, but postponed on afternoon of 31 March 2011 to 1 May 2011
- Second set of draft regulations published in November 2010 for public comment, but only finalised at the end of April 2011
- Prescribed forms only available on 28 April 2011
- **Case study of how law reform should NOT be done**
- Important transitional provisions in Schedule 5
- Institute of Directors replaced King II with King III on 1 March 2010

Scope of legislation

- Repeals entire Act 61/1973 as amended, subject to transitional arrangements in Schedule 5, *except for provisions on winding-up and liquidation*
- Does NOT repeal CC Act of 1984, but does not allow new registrations and encourages conversions to private company (Schedules 2 & 3, particularly item 2 of Schedule 3)
- Deals only with companies, and NOT with

In June this year Prof. Andreas van Wyk of PwC spoke to the Boland Chapter of the Institute about the new Companies Act, which will be relevant to members who run a business. Here we reproduce the content from the slides in his presentation, which will give members a good idea of what they need to look into.

- partnerships
- Retains division between companies and partnerships (Present sec. 31 replaced by new sec. 8(3))
- No limit to number of partners in future (No equivalent of present sec. 30)
- Also affects trusts through definition of “juristic person” in sec. 1 and through definitions of “control” and “subsidiary relationships” in secs 2 and 3
- Includes state-owned companies in its definition of companies for profit

New or revamped regulators

- Whole of Chapter 7 dedicated to remedies and enforcement
- Sec. 22 deals with trading in insolvent circumstances and has serious implications, even after amendment in March 2011
- Emphasis on alternative dispute resolution (sec. 156)
- Present CIPRO upgraded to Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) in terms of sec. 185 with pretensions of American secretary
- PROBLEM: History of chaos at CIPRO
- Take-over Regulation Panel in terms of sec. 196
- New Companies Tribunal in terms of sec. 193 (in earlier draft called ombudsman)
- Financial Reporting Standards Council in terms of sec. 203

Transitional arrangements

- Set out in Schedule 5
- Existing companies continue to exist as if incorporated under new Act (item 2)
- Companies have two years from promulgation of new Act to adapt memorandum and shareholders’ agreements to new Act (item 4(2) & 4(3A))
- If this is not done, the existing memo and

Prof. van Wyk was formerly the dean of the law faculty at Stellenbosch University and facilitates training on the new Companies Act for PwC.

- *Maatskappye het twee jaar ná inwerking-trede om akte en aandeelhouersooreen-koms by nuwe Wet aan te pas (item 4(2) & 4(3A))*
- *As dit nie gedoen word nie, daarna geldig net vir sover versoenbaar met nuwe Wet (item 4(3))*
- Tov bestuur geld nuwe Wet onmiddellik ná inwerkingtrede (bv. vereiste dat publieke maatskappye drie direkteure moet hê) (item 7)
- Bestaande art. 21-maatskappye word outomaties geag 'n MSW te wees en naam te verander het (item 4(1)(a))
- *Nuwe remedies terugwerkend (item 7)*

Tipies maatskappye

- Twee basiese tipes: maatskappye met en maatskappye sonder winsoogmerk (art. 8(1))
- Maatskappye met winsoogmerk het vier subtipies: publiek; privaat; met persoonlike aanspreeklikheid; staatsmaatskappye (art. 8(2))
- Onderskeid tussen publiek en privaat dieselfde as in Wet 61/1973, *BEHALWE dat maksimum van 50 lede vir privaat maatskappye afgeskaf word* (art. 8(2)(b))
- Slegs een aandeelhouer is voldoende, behalwe vir MSW's ("NPC's") (drie oprigters vereis), maar publieke maatskappye moet drie direkteure hê (art. 66(2))
- *NB VIR KLEIN SAKEMENSE*: Besondere (naamlose) sub tipe bedoel as plaasvervanger van BK: maatskappye waarin al die aandeelhouers ook direkteure is ("beslote maatskappye")
- Sulke beslote maatskappye word vrygestel van sekere vereistes (bv art. 30 rakende oudits en art. 57 aangaande vergaderings, ens)
- Huidige verpligte waarskuwende toevoegings behou, maar daar is drie nuwes: MSB Bpk (staatsmaatskappye), MSW (maatskappye sonder winsoogmerk), en RF (arts 11(3) & 14(2))
- Publieke maatskappye bly die verstektipe
- Staatsmaatskappye (MSB's) onderworpe aan die Maatskappiewet, behalwe vir sover Minister van Handel en Nywerheid uitsluit (art. 9) en onderworpe aan ingewikkelde voorskrif in art. 5(4) oor botsende wetgewing
- Ingewikkelde definisies van "verwante en onderling verwante persone, en beheer (art. 2) en van "filiaalverwantskappe" (art. 3)

Finansiële state en ouditeure

- Eerstens Hoofstuk 2C met opskrif

"Deursigtigheid, aanspreeklikheid en integriteit van maatskappye" (arts 23-34), **WAT VIR ALLE MAATSKAPPYE GELD**

- Hoofsaaklik te doen met finansiële en ander rekords en die toegang daartoe
- Voorskrifte oor toegang (art. 26) meer gebalanseerd as in vorige wetsontwerp: beperk tot persone met 'n belang in die maatskappye se sekuriteite en ook tot bepaalde dokumente, en moet gelees word saam met Wet op Bevordering van Toegang tot Inligting van 2000 (PAIA)
- *Arts 29 & 30 beperk plig om finansiële state te laat ouditeer tot publieke en staatsmaatskappye, tensy die minister van bepaalde tipes privaat maatskappye vereis dat daar 'n oudit moet wees (art. 30(7))*
- *Alle maatskappye wat geouditeer moet word, moet breedvoerige inligting oor uitvoerende vergoeding openbaar maak (art. 30(4)-(6))*
- Alle publieke maatskappye en staatsmaatskappye moet verder ook voldoen aan Hoofstuk 3 ("Groter aanspreeklikheid en deursigtigheid") (arts 84-94) ivm maatskappye-sekretarisse, ouditeure en ouditkomitees)
- Invloed van Amerikaanse Sarbanes-Oxley-wet van 2002
- Bepalings om onafhanklikheid van eksterne ouditeure te verseker (arts 92, 93(3), 94(7))
- *Privaatmaatskappye benodig slegs 'n onafhanklike oorsig van hulle state, en maatskappye waarvan alle aandeelhouers ook direkteure van die maatskappye is, is selfs van onafhanklike oorsig vrygestel (a 30(2A))*
- Regulasies reël besonderhede, veral dmv omstrede punttestelsel (PIS: Openbare-belangtelling)

Nuwe begrip in regulasie 26(2):

2) For the purposes of regulations 27 to 30, 43, 127 and 128, every company must calculate its 'public interest score' at the end of each financial year, calculated as the sum of the following:—

- a number of points equal to the average number of employees of the company during the financial year;
- one point for every R 1 million (or portion thereof) in third party liability of the company, at the financial year end;
- one point for every R 1 million (or portion thereof) in turnover during the financial year; and
- one point for every individual who, at the end of the financial year, is known by the company—
 - (i) in the case of a profit company, to

agreements will only be valid to the extent that they are compatible with the new (item 4(3))

- As regards governance, new Act to apply immediately (e.g. requirement that public companies should have three directors) (item 7)
- Existing section 21 companies are automatically considered to be NPCs and name to have changed (item 4(1)(a))
- Some new remedies retroactive (item 7)

Categories of companies

- Two basic types: profit companies and non-profit companies (s 8(1))
- Profit companies have four subtypes: public; private; personal liability; state-owned (sec. 8(2))
- NB: Disappearance of widely held/limited interest companies of 2006 Amendment Act
- Distinction between public and private same as under Act 61/1973, *EXCEPT* that maximum of 50 members for private abolished
- NO minimum membership required, except for NPC's (three incorporators needed), but public companies need three directors (s 66(2))
- **IMPORTANT FOR SMALL BUSINESS-ES:** Variant type intended as replacement of present CC: companies where all the shareholders are directors ("close companies")
- Such close companies are exempt from certain requirements (e.g. sec. 30 dealing with audits and sec. 57 concerning meetings)
- Present suffixes retained, but new are: SOC, NPC and therefore
- Public company is still default type
- SOC's subject to Companies Act, except to extent that minister of DTI exempts (s 9) and subject to convoluted provision in sec. 5(4) on conflicting legislation
- Intricate definitions of "related and inter-related persons, and control" (sec. 2) and of "subsidiary relationships" (sec. 3)

Financial statements & auditing

- First: Chapter 2C with heading "Transparency, accountability and integrity of companies" (secs 23-34), **APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPANIES**
- Deals mainly with financial/other records and access
- Provisions on access (sec. 26) more balanced than in initial draft: limited to persons with interest in company's securities and to certain documents, and to be read

with PAIA of 2000

- Secs 29 & 30 (as amended) on financial statements limit need to have statements audited to public companies and SOC's, unless minister requires certain types of private companies to be audited (sec. 30(7))
- All companies requiring an audit must publish extensive details on executive remuneration (sec. 30(4)-(6))
- All public companies and SOC's must in addition comply with Chapter 3 ("Enhanced accountability and transparency") (secs 84-94) on company secretaries, auditors and audit committees)
- Influence of American Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- Provisions to ensure independence of external auditors (secs 92, 93(3), 94(7))
- Private companies only need an independent review of statements, and even this unnecessary if all shareholders are also directors (sec. 30 (2A), inserted by Amendment Act)
- Regulations spell out details, especially through controversial "public interest score" (PIS)

This is a new concept spelt out in regulation 26(2):

2) For the purposes of regulations 27 to 30, 43, 127 and 128, every company must calculate its 'public interest score' at the end of each financial year, calculated as the sum of the following:—

- a number of points equal to the average number of employees of the company during the financial year;
- one point for every R 1 million (or portion thereof) in third party liability of the company, at the financial year end;
- one point for every R 1 million (or portion thereof) in turnover during the financial year; and
- one point for every individual who, at the end of the financial year, is known by the company –

- in the case of a profit company, to directly or indirectly have a beneficial interest in any of the company's issued securities; or
- in the case of a non-profit company, to be a member of the company, or
- member of an association that is a member of the company.

This score determines the need for a full audit and the applicable accounting standard.

“Kry professionele advies oor versoenbaarheid van ou akte, statute en aandeelhouders-ooreenkomste met nuwe Wet”

- directly or indirectly have a beneficial interest in any of the company's issued securities; or
- (ii) in the case of a non-profit company, to be a member of the company, or
- (iii) member of an association that is a member of the company.

Hierdie telling bepaal of 'n volle oudit nodig is en ook welke rekeningkundige standaard van toepassing is

- Regulasie 28. Kategorieë van maatskappy wat *geouditeer* moet word
 - (1) This regulation applies to a company unless, in terms of section 30 (2A), it is exempt from having its annual financial statements either audited or independently reviewed.
 - (2) In addition to public companies and state owned companies, any company that falls within any of the following categories in any particular financial year must have its annual financial statements for that financial year audited:
 - (a) any profit or non-profit company if, in the ordinary course of its primary activities, it holds assets in a fiduciary capacity for persons who are not related to the company, and the aggregate value of such assets held at any time during the financial year exceeds R 5 million; ...
 - (c) any other company whose public interest score in that financial year, as calculated in accordance with regulation 26 (2)
 - (i) is 350 or more; or
 - (ii) is at least 100, if its annual financial statements for that year were internally compiled.
- Reg 29(4): Kategorieë van maatskappy wat met onafhanklike oorsig kan volstaan: *An independent review* of a company's annual financial statements must be carried out—
 - (a) in the case of a company whose public interest score for the particular financial year was *at least 100*, by a registered auditor, or a member in good standing of a professional body that has been accredited in terms of section 33 of the Auditing Professions Act; or
 - (b) in the case of a company whose public interest score for the particular financial year was *less than 100*, by—
 - (i) a person contemplated in paragraph (a); or
 - (ii) a person who is qualified to be appointed as an accounting officer of a close corporation in terms of section 60 (1), (2) and (4) of the Close Corporations Act, 1984 (Act No. 69 of 1984).

Onthou King III

- Gepubliseer deur Institute of Directors op 1 September 2009, vervang King II vanaf 1 Maart 2010
- Gebaseer op “Pas toe of verduidelik” instelle van “Voldoen of verduidelik”
- *Gemik op “alle entiteite”: probleme weens hierdie oordrewe ambisie?*
- Klem op volhoubaarheid, risikobestuur, interne oudit, en IT-bestuur
- Al hierdie aspekte moet gedek word in geïntegreerde volhoubaarheidsverslag (“integrated sustainability report”)

Gevolgtrekkings

Nuwe wet uiteraard onbeproefd en baie min toeligting

Positiewe aspekte:

- Wet lyk korter, MAAR ...
- Verbasende buigbaarheid oor vele dinge
- Opruiming van bv. aandeel met parawaarde, kapitaal-handhawing en van 2006-wet
- Nuttige praktiese vernuwings t o v bv “beslote maatskappye”

Bekommernisse:

- *Verlies van 100 jaar se regspraak; onduidelike oorgangsbepalings*
- Swak gehalte van wetstek, ten spyte van wysigingswet
- Ministeriële diskresie oor verskeie kwessies
- Vaagheid ivm uitleg en voorkoming van ontduiking (art. 5 & 6)
- Moontlike impak van groter direksiemagte en buigbaarheid op aandeelhouders
- Implikasies van “ondernemingsredding”
- Proliferasie en doeltreffendheid van reguleerders

Bestaande maatskappye: Dinge wat aandag moet kry:

- Kry professionele advies oor versoenbaarheid van ou akte, statute en aandeelhouders-ooreenkomste met nuwe Wet
- Oorweeg die gepastheid van die bestaande tipe maatskappy, veral in geval van kleiner publieke maatskappye
- Indien onuitgereikte aandeel met parawaarde, kry advies
- Indien enige herstrukturering of transaksies oorweeg word, kry advies

Toepassing gaan nog baie uitdagings bied



- Reg 28. Categories of companies required to be *audited*
(1) This regulation applies to a company unless, in terms of section 30 (2A), it is exempt from having its annual financial statements either audited or independently reviewed.
(2) In addition to public companies and state owned companies, any company that falls within any of the following categories in any particular financial year must have its annual financial statements for that financial year audited:
(a) any profit or non-profit company if, in the ordinary course of its primary activities, it holds assets in a fiduciary capacity for persons who are not related to the company, and the aggregate value of such assets held at any time during the financial year exceeds R 5 million; ...
(c) any other company whose public interest score in that financial year, as calculated in accordance with regulation 26 (2)
(i) is 350 or more; or
(ii) is at least 100, if its annual financial statements for that year were internally compiled.
- Reg 29(4): Categories of companies requiring *independent review*
An independent review of a company's annual financial statements must be carried out—
(a) in the case of a company whose public interest score for the particular financial year was *at least 100*, by a registered auditor, or a member in good standing of a professional body that has been accredited in terms of section 33 of the Auditing Professions Act; or
(b) in the case of a company whose public interest score for the particular financial year was *less than 100*, by—
(i) a person contemplated in paragraph (a); or
(ii) a person who is qualified to be appointed as an accounting officer of a close corporation in terms of section 60 (1), (2) and (4) of the Close Corporations Act, 1984 (Act No. 69 of 1984).

Remember King III

- Made public by Institute of Directors on 1 September 2009, applicable in lieu of King II from 1 March 2010
- Based on “Apply or explain” instead of “Comply or explain”
- *Applicable to “all entities”: potential problems due to this excessive ambition?*
- Emphasis on sustainability, risk management, internal audit, and IT management

- All to be covered in “integrated sustainability report”

Conclusions

Act obviously untried and very little guidance

Positive aspects:

- Act seems much shorter, BUT ...
- Surprising flexibility in many areas
- Cleaning up of e.g. par value shares, capital maintenance and of Corporate Laws Amendment Act of 2006
- Easing of requirements for family/small companies

Areas of concern:

- Loss of century of case law; unclear transitional provisions
- Still examples of bad drafting, in spite of Amendment Act
- Ministerial discretions
- Vagueness on interpretation and anti-avoidance (secs 5 & 6)
- Possible impact of flexibility and boards' increased powers on shareholders
- Business rescue's implications
- Proliferation and effectiveness of regulators

Existing companies: Things to do:

- Get professional advice on compatibility of memo, articles and shareholder agreement with new Act
- Consider appropriateness of existing company type, especially if small public company
- If unissued shares with par value, get advice
- If any restructuring or deals being considered, get advice

It is foreseen that there will be many challenges with implementation

“The Act is obviously untried and there is very little guidance”



Former SATI vice-chair Wilna Liebenberg is the 2011/12 recipient of the Institute's Johan Kruger Award for service to the profession.

Congratulations, Wilna!

An all-round learning experience



A workshop on freelancing and marketing for language practitioners was presented by SATI Council member Michelle Rabie in Vanderbijlpark on 15 October 2011 and proved to be a most successful day for all who attended.

The workshop was organised by Mari-Leigh Pienaar of the Centre for Translation and Professional Language Services (CTrans) on the Vaal Triangle Campus of North-West University and opened to both students and non-students.

The interaction between practitioners and students was stimulating and beneficial to both. Everyone learnt something – the students were able to learn a great deal from Michelle and other practitioners in the field, and the students' enthusiasm rubbed off on some of the more experienced language practitioners. The workshop also opened the eyes of the academics present to some practical issues that had not occurred to them previously. Michelle's creative and practical approach brought a lot of depth to the session.

Feedback from participants

I was very impressed with the Freelancing and Marketing Workshop that we attended yesterday. The venue was fine, morning refreshments and snacks pleasant and lunch delicious. The workshop in general was well organized and the price very reasonable. Michelle's presentation was friendly, very informative and certainly useful. The mutual encouragement was priceless.

Carlos Pereira

"Not having your financial statements audited for a year or two and then deciding to have them audited will have a significant cash flow effect on the business."



I would like to offer my commendations on an event which was very well run and enjoyable. It is always proven to have a special significance for me, who is still relatively new to this family of 'Language Practitioners', to see a pleasant bunch of us get together and discuss the job, network, moan and commiserate and generally be a bit of a 'skoolbende' for a couple of hours!

Which leads me to observe, as was the case in this particular instance, how special (and mildly gratifying ...) it is to see the new 'recruits' to the Language Practitioner world and see yourself through their eyes for a moment. I am a totally freelance practitioner right now and have no 'pretensions' as yet to participate in the more specialized work and world of academic texts and such things. Seeing those bright-eyed kids staring at us was kind of special. Or maybe it was just me!

In general, I also believe the people who attended this course were sufficiently 'representative' of the field, which is not only good for the students in our audience but also encouraging for us freelancing SATI members as to the continued worth and relevance of belonging to the organisation.

Congratulations on the very professional hosting of Saturday's event. Made the drive down from Pretoria well worth the effort. My

first time at the NWU Vaal Triangle Campus. Certainly won't be my last!

Morné Kotze



The workshop went very well. Michelle gave us a lot to think about for our future freelance endeavours and, personally, I'm glad I attended as I learned quite a few things. I also very much enjoyed the 'networking' part of the workshop, especially hearing about other people's experiences.

Also attending was a group of second and third-year language practice students, who gave the workshop a somewhat entertaining edge and all attendants shared quite a few laughs.

So a productive and positive day.

Thank you to SATI, Michelle and the Vaal Triangle Campus for organising this. It was well worth it to me.

Laurent Chauvet



Transfiction

"In summary, the conference catered for a multilingual audience and participants, touched on important questions in Translation and Interpreting Studies and gave an interesting perspective on the mixed cultures of the traditional Viennese society."

Report by Prof. MJ Wenzel of North-West University, Potchefstroom, on *Transfiction*, the First International Conference on Fictional Translators in Literature and Film, presented by the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna, Austria, 14-17 September 2011

This conference exceeded my expectations with regard to organisation and professionalism and yet managed to maintain a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. Although about 50 participants from all parts of the world attended, the interaction between participants was free and easy, as well as constructive with regard to information exchange and social interaction.

The main languages of the conference were German and English, with interpreting between the two where necessary. The countries represented were some of the Arabian countries, Austria, Canada, England, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Ireland (Dublin), Italy, Jordan, the Republic of Macedonia, South Africa and the USA.

Topics

As the title indicated, the main theme of the conference concerning the translation of fiction was broad, which provided scope for individual innovation and interpretation. A heavy emphasis was placed on ethical concepts, which Ana Ponomareva from the University of Portsmouth (lecturer in Translation and Russian) highlighted by saying that 'we all make soup from vegetables, but it is what we do with them that counts'.

Fiction and films about translators and interpreters were also high on the agenda: *Lost in Translation*, *The Interpreter* and *Babel* with regard to films, and *Daniel Stein*, *Interpreter* by Liudmila Ulitskaya, *Baghdad Bound: An Interpreter's Chronicles of the Iraq War* by Mohamed Fadel Fahmy, and *The Translator: A Tribesman's Memoir of Darfur* by Daoud Hari as some of the texts that were discussed. All these texts highlight the idea of conflict resolution in negotiations, whether in a private or an official context.

Several theoretical paradigms were also mentioned, such as the influence of a postmodernist or postcolonial context on translation/interpreting, the presence of cultural metaphors and irony in texts, etc. With regard to postmodernist tendencies, Rosemary Arrojo, the keynote speaker, emphasised the role played by Jorge Luis Borges in the translation of fictional texts. The combination of his Latin American heritage and a youth spent in Europe provided him with the material to function as both author and translator. His work also exemplifies features

of postmodernist tendencies.

However, I found it interesting that language problems did not feature very prominently on the agenda. One could perhaps assume that proficiency in the source and target languages are a foregone conclusion in this regard.

The organisers also provided some cultural entertainment that gave insight into the Viennese culture: an informal dinner at a typical Viennese restaurant in one of the oldest buildings in Vienna, a reception at the home of a famous author-couple, and an evening in a typical Austrian winemaker's tavern.

In summary, the conference catered for a multilingual audience and participants, touched on important questions in Translation and Interpreting Studies and gave an interesting perspective on the mixed cultures of the traditional Viennese society which is complemented by the postmodernist trends and fashions that are also reflected in contemporary literature.

Observation and recommendation

I am convinced that the institution at which I teach, North-West University, with its well-developed interpretation system and Translation Studies as a subject, could contribute valuable information to the recently established forum on literature and film in translation and act as an ambassador to the outside world by demonstrating interaction at various levels within the South African pluralist society, for example the concept of community interpreting. In addition, South Africa can boast of an interesting community of authors who write and translate their own novels (André P Brink, Dalene Matthee, Elsa Joubert), as well as novelists who also translate other authors, especially from Afrikaans to English (JM Coetzee, Michiel Heyns). All these writers could furnish participants with first-hand knowledge on the topic of fictional translation. Moreover, the 11 official languages in our country provide fertile ground for exploration by translators and interpreters.

In short, I would urge the university in collaboration with other university departments and institutes concerned with language and translation and the South African Translators' Institute to consider hosting a similar conference on South African soil.



XhosAfrika-konferensie bekyk status van isiXhosa

Die eerste Xhosa-konferensie waar daar oor die status van isiXhosa in die Wes-Kaap besin is, is op 26 en 27 Augustus 2011 by die KunsteKaap-teater gehou. Dit is deur die XhosAfrikanetwerk, 'n burgerlike netwerk van Afrikaans- en Xhosa-instellings wat veeltaligheid ondersteun en die belange van Xhosa en Afrikaans bevorder, aangebied en het deel gevorm van die KunsteKaap se gewilde Skolekunste fees. Die konferensie is bygewoon deur meer as driehonderd akademici, onderwysers, leerders, persone uit die regering, kunstenaars en lede van boekklubs en bejaardeklubs.

Uitstaande kenmerke van die konferensie was die gebruik van isiXhosa as konferensie-taal (gerugsteun deur 'n tolkdien), uitstekende bydraes oor die gebruik van isiXhosa as taal van die wetenskap, die onderwys, die industrie en as literêre taal, asook geesdriftige deelname van die gehoor. Dr. Neville Alexander, internasionaal erkende taalsosioloog, het die aanwesiges teen die nadele van die dominansie van Engels gemaak en hulle aangemoedig om soos Afrikaanssprekers, hul taalregte op te eis. Die resolusies wat aanvaar is, was 'n duidelike mandaat aan die XhosAfrika-netwerk om die huidige opmars na Engels-eentaligheid teen te staan. Geesdrif vir die proses blyk uit die resolusie dat die konferensie 'n jaarlikse instelling moet word. Die volgende is enkele van die resolusies wat aanvaar is:

- Inheemse tale is onder druk, want hulle kry nie genoeg ondersteuning van die regering nie
- Inligtingsessies moet in gemeenskappe gehou word om ouers oor die belangrikheid van die moedertaal in te lig
- Matriekvraestelle moet in al drie tale van die Wes-Kaap beskikbaar gestel word
- Daar moet meer Xhosa-woordeboeke geskep word
- Xhosasprekendes het nie toegang tot koerante in hul eie taal nie. Hulle is dus oningelig oor baie sake wat vir hulle relevant is
- Openbare instellings, soos polisiestases en hospitale, moet voorsiening maak vir

Die eerste Xhosa-konferensie waar daar oor die status van isiXhosa in die Wes-Kaap besin is, is op 26 en 27 Augustus 2011 by die KunsteKaap-teater gehou. Dit is deur die XhosAfrikanetwerk, 'n burgerlike netwerk van Afrikaans- en Xhosa-instellings wat veeltaligheid ondersteun en die belange van Xhosa en Afrikaans bevorder, aangebied en het deel gevorm van die KunsteKaap se gewilde Skolekunste fees.

die sprekers van al drie amptelike tale

- Daar moet opleiding vir aspirant-skrywers kom om die tekort aan boeke in Xhosa te hanteer
- Die LTP (Language Transformation Plan), waarvolgens leerders al drie tale sou aanleer en wat intussen geskrap is, moet heringestel word.

Die suksesvolle Xhosa-konferensie is grootliks deur Afrikaanse rolspelers moontlik gemaak. Die enigste twee Afrikaanse organisies wat deel van die ATR sowel as die XhosAfrika-netwerk is, is die Stigting vir Bemagtiging deur Afrikaans (SBA) en die Vriende van Afrikaans (VVA). Verdere steun is van die ATR, die SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, die Afrikanerbond en mnr. André van der Walt, bekende kampvegter vir veeltaligheid, ontvang. Dr. Michael le Cordeur, ondervoorsitter van die Afrikaanse Taalraad, het tydens die konferensie die ATR se steun vir die Xhosa-inisiatief oorgedra.

Met hierdie samewerkingsinisiatief vorm Xhosa en Afrikaans, as respektiewelik, die naasgrootste en derde grootste taal in Suid-Afrika, 'n gedugte krag vir die erkenning van veeltaligheid soos in die Grondwet bedoel word.



August saw a conference on the use of Xhosa take place in the Western Cape. Among other things the conference, which was presented by the XhosAfrika Network, a civil society network of Afrikaans and Xhosa institutions that support multilingualism and promote the interests of Xhosa and Afrikaans, discussed the use of Xhosa as a language of science, education, industry and literature.

Hierdie berig het in die Afrikaanse Taalraad se ATR Koker van Oktober 2011 verskyn en word met goedkeuring van die ATR herpubliseer.

Bridging cultures in the Western Cape

This year SATI Boland joined forces with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape to present a comprehensive and multi-faceted seminar in celebration of International Translation Day.

Marlene Rose of SATI Boland collaborated closely with Quintus van der Merwe, Head of Language Services at the Department, and Pamela Ntlokwana, Assistant Director, to plan a programme that would address the particular needs of language practitioners in provincial and state departments, and bring together practitioners in all languages and subject areas in celebrating their common interests in the language professions. The response was most encouraging, with 66 language professionals from a variety of working environments attending, including National Parliament, PanSALB, SATI, Pharos (who had dictionaries on sale at the event), various provincial government departments, the City of Cape Town and the National Department of Arts and Culture.



Quintus van der Merwe opened the proceedings with a word of welcome on behalf of the Director, Jane Moleleki. He highlighted the need for co-operation between language practitioners, particularly in the field of terminology. Participants

were encouraged to use their mother tongue by Xolisa Tshongolo of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, who handed out headphones for Afrikaans and Xhosa speakers and microphones to voluntary interpreters. Xolisa then read a poem he had written in English and Xhosa entitled *International Translation Day*.

*We are the Universe of the Creator
He created us the way He wanted
As diverse and colourful as he wanted
Sibubuhle bukaMenzi
Sonke sibafazi banded' inye*

*Different languages were His decision.
Different cultures were His mission
Different colours became His flora*

*Zonk' ezo nto zezakhe njengoMenzi
Uzenze ngokuzithanda nokuziqhayisa*

*As diverse as we are we are all humans
As diverse as we are, we have one space to share*

*As diverse as we are, we have one life to live
Igazi lethu limpompoza ngokufanayo
Sonke sabelana ngoko kusenz' abantu*

*Abangavaniyo ababinto ngaphandle
komxolelanisi
Uguqulelo ngumxolelanisi kwiyantlukwano yethu*

*Speaking in tongues is the ideal
Translation is the core*

*Different cultures cannot set us apart
Different languages cannot set us apart
Different colours cannot set us apart
Our tool will always keep us unified
Ngumsesane kwiyantlukwano yethu*

Dr Nomfundo Mali, Provincial Manager of PanSALB Western Cape, delivered a message of support, referring to the origins of International Translation Day and its relevance to the celebration of diverse cultures during Heritage Month.



Provincial Language Forum

Pamela Ntlokwana gave an overview of the activities of the Provincial Language Forum, which consists of language practitioners working in Western Cape government departments, and includes representatives from municipalities, the Provincial Legislature, National Parliament and the provincial office of the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB). The aim and activities of the Forum focus on terminology development, training and quality control. The Forum meets regularly and cooperates with universities in the Western Cape and with PanSALB to access resources and meet the challenges regarding terminology.

SATI

Elise Engelbrecht, SATI Boland treasurer and Manager of the City of Cape Town Language Service, gave a presentation on SATI as a professional organisation: its mission, status, membership of FIT, the LAMP alliance, range of languages, code of ethics, membership, services provided, accreditation, publications, translation prizes and practical benefits for members. This was an ideal opportunity to promote SATI as a representative professional body for language practitioners, particularly its role in ensuring professional standards and promoting professional development by facilitating continued training opportunities.



Human Language Technologies

Ulrike Janke, Director of Human Language Technologies at the Department of Arts and Culture in Pretoria, gave an informative introduction to the application of human language technologies at the Department of Arts and Culture. In short, this comprises the interaction between humans and computers through natural language by means of text and speech technology. This would include automatic speech recognition and synthesis and translation, as well as search engines, translation systems and spelling and grammar checkers. The DAC has initiated various programmes to facilitate access to information and services in the citizen's language of choice, including spelling checkers in the official languages and terminology management systems. The Autshumato and Lwazi projects have contributed greatly in this regard and various new projects are being planned.

Compiling a terminology list

Wanda Smith, a lexicographer at Pharos, gave a very practical answer to the question: With English as the source language, how does one compile a terminology list that clearly reflects the context of the terms, parts of speech, etc.? She explained that a terminology list differed from a word list in that it is subject-specific and focuses on usage and standardisation. She discussed various pitfalls such as the importance of a sound

knowledge of the languages being treated, clarity regarding purpose and the importance of context and grammatical form. Her talk was illustrated with practical examples of terminology lists, to serve as a guideline.



Wordfast

Wilna Liebenberg, Wordfast tutor, translator and chairperson of SATI Boland, gave an introductory talk on the Wordfast translation programme, focusing particularly on how a terminology list can be used as a Wordfast glossary. She gave a practical demonstration of how a terminology database is developed while using Wordfast, convincing the audience that this is an indispensable aid for language practitioners.

Deaf culture and South African Sign Language

In conclusion, Jabaar Mohamed, Provincial Director of DeafSA Western Cape, gave an entertaining and informative talk on Deaf culture and South African Sign Language. Talking through an interpreter, he discussed the services offered by DeafSA and explained the norms and customs of Deaf culture, to promote understanding among the hearing public of the way of life and the values of the Deaf community. He referred to preferred terminology and the importance of facial expression and gestures in communication. He pointed out that, as sign language varies from one country to the next, South African Sign Language is a unique entity. Various technological aids are available for Deaf persons, such as mobile phones, webcams and e-mail.



Conclusion

After a morning packed with information and new insights, refreshment in the form of a light lunch was most welcome. The day's activities were concluded with a tour of the Archives. The organisers certainly succeeded in presenting a programme that was appropriate to the needs and interests of language professionals, particularly regarding the various aspects of terminology development.



ITD 2011: An informal celebration by the SATI clan



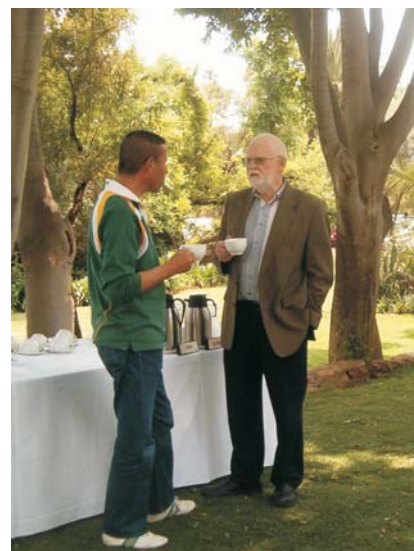
Michelle gave us the opportunity to exchange useful resources (which she listed on a white-board for us) that members use for accessing online terminology and dictionaries. Various programs (such as Dropsend, Usend, etc.) for e-mailing large files to clients were also discussed.

A suggestion that emerged was the possibility of adding a function on SATI's website where members would be able to submit helpful hints to be shared by members only and where members' experiences (good or bad) can be posted.

Thanks for your efforts, Michelle!



This year's gathering of the SATI clansmen in Gauteng to celebrate International Translation Day (St. Jerome's Day) turned out to be a pleasant change of format. While birds chirped and flowers bobbed in the sunshine, Gauteng SATI members gathered on the lawn at Leriba Lodge Hotel in Centurion and enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch under the shady trees with attentive staff on hand. It struck me how serendipitously International Translation Day falls right in the middle of our South African spring, and was silently thankful to Michelle Rabie for her fresh ideas! Perhaps, weather permitting, future St Jerome's Days could become a traditionally outdoor event? The combination of being out in the open while enjoying picnic baskets filled with scrumptious goodies (not to mention the odd bottle of wine!) with old (and new) friends was certainly conducive to relaxed interaction and effective networking among SATI clansmen.



Words by **Barbara Op 't Hof-de Wet**. Barbara is an accredited member of SATI and a freelance translator in Pretoria



Translation: A window to another culture

Notes on a presentation by Sekepe Matjila and Karen Haire, University of Johannesburg, 19 July 2011

I would like to thank SATI for sending out the invitation to a seminar on the art of translation presented by Prof. DS Matjila (Director of Pan African Languages and Cultural Development at Unisa) and Dr Karen Haire (Coordinator of Bunting Road Writing Centre at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and research fellow in the Department of Linguistics and Literary Theory), who have collaborated on Setswana-English translation projects for several years. Their latest project is a translation of Sol T Plaatje: *Morata Wabo*, a biography by Dr SM Molema, never before published in translation.

The seminar was held in the Humanities Common Room – C Ring, Department of Linguistics and Literary Theory, UJ. I found the university in Auckland Park with the aid of my GPS, but it took me about half an hour to find Room C319 in the ‘orange building’, as it was referred to by the helpful students who assisted me. I arrived at my destination with my little black notebook, a pencil, an invitation and cold hands ... As I entered Room C 319, I was welcomed by Anne-Marie Beukes and her smile. I chose a comfortable seat at the back of the room and could not help but notice the beautiful African interior design, which added to what was a truly memorable day. Prof. Sekepe Matjila and Dr Karen Haire arrived and the seminar began.

I should mention that I am of Czech origin (born and raised in the country called the Czech Republic, previously Czechoslovakia), but have lived in SA for some 17 years and fell under the African spell immediately after my first business trip. Over the years I have developed a passion for the literature written by African authors and I am trying to bring some of the African beauty to Europe in the form of the books translated to Czech. I am of course dealing with lots of questions related to the translation of the books, as are all other translators. What was fantastic about this seminar was that very important questions were answered during the discussion and lots of strong, very important messages were sent

across Room C319 – at least that was my experience. I would like to share with you some of my notes.

First of all, I do not intend to write a long essay about the remarkable Solomon Tshekeisho Plaatje, the first black African (born in the land of Tswana-speaking people) to write a novel in English, the first African to translate Shakespeare into an African language (his passion for Shakespeare resulted in Tswana translations of five plays). We were told that while he was introducing the Shakespeare plays to his people in his native language, he added a bit of acting, to help the others understand the play. His novel *Native Life in South Africa* is one of the most important books in Africa today, having apparently been used by some 1 000 people in land claims! It was first published in 1916 in Boston, USA.

Karen told the surprised attendees that even though Plaatje was taught by a liberal missionary, he only studied to Grade 3, yet he worked as a court interpreter in the magistrate’s court in Mafikeng. Of course at that time he did not have help in the form of dictionaries or a computer – he couldn’t ‘just google it’. His experiences as an interpreter helped him a great deal in his future translation work. Plaatje spoke about 10 languages fluently. He was the first secretary-general of the ‘South African Native National Congress’, founded in 1912 (today’s ANC). Translation was the way for him to show the quality of the Setswana language. Plaatje was an African to the core.

One of the questions discussed was ‘Should we translate the original word for word?’ The answer was ‘not only word for word, but also meaning for meaning’. Sometimes it is simply impossible to translate word for word, especially when it comes to proverbs and sayings. So it was agreed that the translator is present in the translation. The discussion on this topic was very interesting. Prof. Matjila talked about his experience of translating certain proverbs and said that it would simply be silly if the proverb were translated word for

“Sol Plaatje ... the first black African to write a novel in English and the first African to translate Shakespeare into an African language.”

Article by Šarka Coningsby. Šarka is a freelance language practitioner in Johannesburg.

word as it would make no sense. Of course, one must do very responsible research so as not to completely misinterpret the meaning. When Prof. Matjila was reciting some pieces in the Tswana language, which I don't understand, his voice changed – it was filled with affection, with love, it sounded like a song. You could have heard a pin drop on the floor.

An issue raised by one of the translators present related to the need for awareness to be raised at schools, as the students are not taught about Plaatje in the classroom. There was also a complaint about the lack of updated dictionaries for translators, especially when translating academic documents into or out of an African language. Another issue raised was the pressure that publishers put on translators and what could be done about that.

The seminar was very informative, a true translator's delight, as Karen Haire and Sekepe Matjila, both very passionate and committed translators of Plaatje's work, are a huge inspiration for all of us who are trying to open the window to another world by translating – in this case the world of Africa, where the first kings and queens came from, as Matjila told us.

I shall never forget Karen Haire's words: 'This book, *Morata Wabo*, is a work of our heart, we didn't do it for the money.' The two of them worked on the book for two years and did a tremendous amount of research, trying to capture the spirit of Plaatje, to introduce him in the true picture, who he really was.

The translation should be available in 2012. I can not wait to read it. And I hope there will be more seminars like this one, as African literature written in its various African languages has so much to offer.



Want to help develop a language?

The WAT (*Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal*) has come up with a novel fund-raising campaign. By sponsoring a word in the dictionary at a cost of R100, you stand the chance of winning a prize worth R25 000! Closing date: 29 February 2012. The draw takes place on 9 March.

For more information, go to www.wat.co.za/Borgnwoord.htm.

Snippets

Quick tips to improve your office experience

- Hang a painting you really like near your desk. It will help make you feel calm and think clearly.
- Display a plant in a beautiful pot in the office. Not only will it create a feature, but it brings the outside in. Green creates a tranquil atmosphere for optimising the mental functions of focus, concentration and clarity.
- Have warm colours in your office: shades and tones, or splashes, of red, burgundy, bright orange, burnt orange, bright yellow and yellow ochre. All these colours improve focus, attention, clear thinking and effective action, which in turn improves productivity.
- Place a beautiful vase on your desk with fresh-cut sunflowers in it. Not only will this improve your focus, but it will look beautiful and make you feel optimistic as well!

All these tips are easy to apply and will make a major difference to your office experience.

By Léan of Léan van der Merwe Interiors
[<http://www.leaninteriors.blogspot.com/>]

Streetwise!

Have you heard about the *SA Street Dictionary*? It aims to reflect the 'mix-and-match slang that is unique to our corner of the world'.

Check it out at <http://sastreetdictionary.co.za>.

Writers' Symposium

The Centre for the Book is hosting the second South African Writers' Symposium from 8 to 10 March 2012 in Cape Town. The theme will be *Striving for Excellence in South African Literature*.

A call for papers has been issued and the deadline for submissions is 31 January 2012. The call for papers is available on the SATI website at http://translators.org.za/sati_cms/index.php?frontend_action=display_text_content&content_id=3664.



Baanbreker vir die Afrikaanse taalpraktisyn

Of etlike jare heen moes diegene wat teksredigering op universiteit deur die medium van Afrikaans aangebied en bestudeer het hul noodwendigerwys verlaat op seminale bronne wat nie in Afrikaanse weergawes beskikbaar was nie. Een van die 'groot name' wat sommer onmiddellik by mens in dié verband opkom, is dié van Judith Butcher, wie se *Copy-editing: The Cambridge Handbook for Editors, Authors and Publishers* reeds in 1975 verskyn het en waarvan 'n vierde, uitgebreide uitgawe, *Copy-editing: The Cambridge Handbook for Editors, Authors and Proofreaders*, van 2006 af op die rakke pryk. Butcher het etlike dekades gelede haar redigeerpotlood by die befaamde uitgewershuis, Penguin Books, begin skerpmaak en daarna by die (ewe) befaamde Cambridge University Press aangesluit waar sy 'n huisstylgids saamgestel het wat die grondslag vir haar gesaghebbende boek gelê het (sfe 2011). *Copy-editing*, deur vele in die (Britse) teksredaksiewêreld beskou as dié bron der bronne, is deur 'n deurwinterde teksredigeerder in die uitgewersbedryf vir taalpraktisyns geskryf.

Amper vier dekades ná die eerste Butcher-handleiding maak die eerste bron in Afrikaans wat op die studie van die teks, en die redigeerproses en -praktyk afgestem is, Carstens en Van de Poel se *Teksredaksie*, sy verskyning. Dié boek word tereg allerweë as 'n baanbreker in die wêreld van die Afrikaanse taalpraktisyn verwelkom. Volgens die akademikus Rufus Gouws (2011) is dit "n aanwinst vir Afrikaans" en Theonie Schoombie (2011), redaksielid van *Volksblad*, oordeel dat dit "n moet vir enige sub- of

Teksredaksie. WAM Carstens en Kris van de Poel 2010, SUN Media, Stellenbosch Slapband, ISBN 078-1-920338-2909, 543 bladsye

nuuskantoor' is en verder 'beslis ook 'n moet as handboek vir studente' wat 'hoort tussen die HAT en AWS op jou boekrak!'. Volgens Suzette Kotzé-Myburgh (2011), wat in die uitgewersbedryf werksaam is, sal die boek – 'n paar klein jakkalsies ten spyt – 'nog jare lank een van die belangrikste verwysingsbronne vir teksredakteurs in Afrikaans wees'.

Dis egter nie die geval dat Afrikaans tot toe mank gegaan het aan gesaghebbende taalgidse en handleidings nie. Inteendeel, dié jong taal spog mos met die grootboet van die normatiewe benadering in Afrikaans, die Taalkommissie van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns se *Afrikaanse Woordelys en Spelreëls* (AWS), wat reeds immers sedert 1917 die toon aangee as die hoogste taalgesag in Afrikaans. Van Carstens self het so ver terug as 1989 sy bekende en hoog aangeskrewe *Norme vir Afrikaans. Enkele riglyne by die gebruik van Afrikaans* vir die eerste keer verskyn, waarvan die vyfde uitgawe pas die lig gesien het – as sodanig 'n merkwaardige prestasie. As 'n praktiese naslaanbron en gebruikshandleiding aanvaar *Norme vir Afrikaans* die AWS se normbeginsels as uitgangspunt. En dan beskik Afrikaans ook nog oor Pharos se nuttige taalgebruiksgids, *Skryf Afrikaans van A tot Z* (2003), wat in die eerste plek daarop gerig is om 'n eenvormige styl by die Media24-groep se koerante te bewerkstellig, maar wat ook goedsikks oor 'n breë spektrum deur ander taalpraktisyns soos vertalers, teksredigeerders, proeflesers, ensomeer benut kan word.

In teenstelling met die praktiese ingesteldheid en oogmerke van bogenoemde taalgebruiksgidse het die skrywers van *Teksredaksie* ('as nuuskierige akademici', volgens eie bekentenis in die voorwoord) egter hul taak anders aangepak. Naas die bedoeling om vanuit die raamwerk van die toegepaste taalkunde 'die "storie" agter die praktiese gebruik van taal in die redigeerproses vas te stel', het die skrywers ook 'n duidelik pedagogiese doelwit met die skryf van die boek nagestreef, naamlik om 'vas te stel wat



Resensie deur **Anne-Marie Beukes.** Anne-Marie is hoof van die Departement Linguistiek en Literatuurwetenskap by die Universiteit van Johannesburg en is sedert 2005 voorsitter van SAVI.

Teksredaksie breaks new ground in providing Afrikaans text editors with a publication that offers both practical and theoretical background to this field of endeavour. It closely examines the training of editors and so has value in both the academic and the practical spheres. Although there is room for improvement in certain areas, which will undoubtedly be addressed in future editions, this book is a valuable addition to the bookshelf of the Afrikaans language practitioner.

onderliggend is aan die opleiding van die persone wat bekend staan as *teksredakteurs*, om te bepaal hoe hierdie opleiding behoort te geskied en hoe hierdie opleiding in ooreenstemming met praktykbehoefte kan plaasvind' (Carstens en Van de Poel 2010: xv). Dié oogmerk is goed te begrype aangesien albei skrywers ook hul daaglikse brood in die hoër onderwys verdien: Wannie Carstens is professor in die Afrikaanse taalkunde en ook direkteur van die Skool vir Tale op die Potchefstroom-kampus van die Noordwes-Universiteit, terwyl Kris van de Poel aan die hoof staan van die Navorsingseenheid vir Toegepaste Taalstudie aan die Universiteit van Antwerpen in België.

Teksredaksie wil dus nie slegs 'n Afrikaanse weergawe van Butcher se praktiese handleiding wees nie, maar wil ook 'n bydrae 'lewer tot die verfyning van ... 'n opleidingsmodel' vir teksredigeerders (Carstens en Van de Poel 2010: 62). 'n Belangrike wins is dus dat *Teksredaksie* nie slegs 'n praktiese handleiding is nie, maar ook 'n teoretiese begroning en insig verskaf waarbinne die studie van die teks sinvol en verantwoord vanuit sowel die perspektief van die normatiewe taalkunde as dié van die tekslinguistiek kan geskied. *Teksredaksie* probeer dus 'n brug slaan tussen teorie en praktyk in 'n terrein waar praktykbeskouings die aandag van die meeste publikasies oor teksredigering oorheers. *Teksredaksie* moet dus verwelkom word omdat dit 'n eerste, broodnodige teoretiese verkenning van 'n terrein bied wat – minstens in Afrikaans – grootliks onontgin is. Kruger (2007: 6) wys immers reeds 'n tyd gelede daarop dat 'editorial theory is nowhere near as well developed or systematised a field as translation theory is ... information about the foundation of text editing as theoretical subdiscipline is virtually non-existent'.

Ek het al menigmaal driftige debatte onder taalpraktisyns aangehoor oor die waarde al dan nie van akademiese onderrig vir vertalers en teksredigeerders. Gewoonlik is taalpraktisyns van mening dat 'vertalers/teksredigeerders immers gebore en nie gemaak word nie' en gevolglik sonder formele opleiding uitstekende werk verrig en hul plek in die beroepswêreld stewig vol staan. Dit is duidelik dat Carstens en Van de Poel terdeë van sodanige standpunte kennis geneem het en daarom met groot omsigtigheid taalpraktykbehoefte in hul boek probeer verreken. Uit 'n totaal van ses hoofstukke word die teoretiese begroning in hoofstuk 2, 'Die teks as domein van teksredaksie – 'n toegepaste model', aan bod gestel aan die hand van die normatiewe linguistiek en die

tekslinguistiek, asook enkele beginsels van dokumentontwerp. Hierdie hoofstuk steun swaar op Carstens se twee vorige boeke, naamlik *Norme vir Afrikaans. Enkele riglyne by die gebruik van Afrikaans* en ook *Afrikaanse tekslinguistiek*. 'n Inleiding (1997), wat vir voorgaande taalpraktisynstudente 'n netjiese voëlvlugbeeld van hierdie terreine aanbied. In die geval van nagraadse onderrig behoort bogenoemde twee bronne egter beslis saam met *Teksredaksie* bestudeer en geïntegreer te word om groter diepgang te verleen.

Carstens en Van de Poel se *Teksredaksie* staan aan die voorpunt van eietydse navorsing op die gebied van teksredigering soos gesien kan word uit die volledige lyste met aanvullende bronne aan die einde van afdelings. Tog sou die teoretiese begroning van *Teksredaksie* ook sinvolle baat kon gevind het by die insluit van 'n inleidende uiteensetting van die beginsels van die eietydse genreteorie waarin die benadering voorgelê word dat tekste as skryfwerk 'n sosiale aktiwiteit is wat telkens in besondere situasies hul oorsprong vind. Die genrebegrip steun op die aanname dat kommunikasie aan die hand van hoogs gestruktureerde konvensionele oogmerke ontstaan ten einde die behoeftes van bepaalde teikengehore te bevredig. Hierdie benadering, tesame met insigte uit die tekslinguistiek en die normatiewe linguistiek, behoort aan voornemende taalpraktisyns 'n stewige greep te bied op die allerbelangrike samehang van tekstuele, diskursiewe en kontekstuele faktore wat verrek word by die versorging van tekste.

Die invoeging van 'n inleiding tot die basiese beginsels van dokumentontwerp in hoofstuk 2 is beslis 'n wins. Dié terrein het die afgelope aantal jare met die toenemende gewildheid en algemene gebruik van elektroniese redigering met behulp van persoonlike rekenaars 'n alledaagse werklikheid in die lewe van teksredakteurs geword. Waar teksredakteurs 'n dekade of meer gelede gewoon geen aandag gegee het aan die voorkoms en ontwerp van die tekste waarmee hulle gewerk het nie omdat dit algemeen aanvaar is dat so 'n taak buite die bestek van hul werk geval het, vorm dit nou meestal 'n integrale deel van die versorging van tekste. Daar is tans 'n groter bewustheid van die verband tussen teksinhoud en -voorkoms (soos uitleg en tipografie). Weer eens: die uiteensetting in *Teksredaksie* van hierdie terrein is kursories en dien slegs as breë bekendstelling aan die oningewyde. Vir 'n omvattender inleiding sal nagraadse studente steeds aangewese wees op die werk van byvoorbeeld Schriver (1997) en ander gesaghebbende bronne.



Soos reeds gesê, gee *Teksredaksie* uitvoerig aandag aan die redigeerproses en -praktyk. Benewens 'n algemene verkenning van die terrein van teksredaksie in die eerste hoofstuk, gee die skrywers ook in hoofstuk 3 'n beskrywing van die profiel van die eietydse teksredakteur in verskillende gedaantes teen die agtergrond van hulle beroepswêreld. In hoofstuk 4 word dit wat teksredakteurs dóén, met ander woorde, die stappe wat hulle volg om 'n teks te versorg, en ook die kennis en vaardighede wat hierdie aksies onderlê, aan die hand van velerlei diagramme en skematiese voorstellings (en 'n swetterjoel bronverwysings) aangebied. Wat die praktyk van teksversorging betref, staan hierdie hoofstuk stellig sentraal in die boek. Ek vind dit tog lastig dat die aanbod hier slegs beskrywend en nie tegelykertyd ook illustratief is nie. Die integrering van werklike voorbeelde uit die taalpraktyk soos vervat in hoofstuk 5, 'Teksredaksie in die praktyk. Afrikaans', en hoofstuk 6, 'Teksredaksie in die praktyk. 'n Vergelykende analise van tekste', sou moontlik duideliker gestalte kon gegee het aan die proses van teksredigering en bygedra het tot sinvoller integrering van kennis en doen vir veral voorgraadse studente.

Die skrywers se ruim gebruik van diagramme en omvattende tabelle om inligting bevatlik te maak, verdien spesifieke vermelding. Ongelukkig is die uitgewer se keuse hier met betrekking tot tipografiese aanbod en uitleg werklik problematies omdat die gebruik van grys as 'n agtergrondkleur die visuele aanbod van die tabelle en diagramme ondermyn. In die woorde van Adelia Carstens: "die taal" van lyn, massa, ruimte, grootte, kleur, patroon en tekstuur' (in Carstens en Van de Poel 2010: 141) van die tabelle en diagramme werk eerder steurend as verhelderend in op die leser. Die tabel op p. 63 wat die K3-model met sy vyftien ykpunte uiteensit, is 'n goeie voorbeeld waar leesbaarheid beduidend ingeboet word en waar "n mooi idee" nie bydra om "n teks te maak" nie (Carstens en Van de Poel 2010: 135)! Dié lastighede sal hopelik in verdere uitgawes geregstel word.

Teksredaksie is 'n voortreflike inleiding in die terrein van teksversorging wat met groot vrug benut kan word in die opleiding van taalpraktisyns. Die boek vul 'n groot leemte in die Suid-Afrikaanse konteks wat veral die opleiding van voorgraadse studente betref waar so 'n omvattende handboek vir studente wat in Afrikaans werk nog nie beskikbaar was nie. Ek het min twyfel dat verdere uitgawes van *Teksredaksie* en die beloofde Engelse en Nederlandse uitgawes nog lank benut sal word as 'n omvattende handboek

by die onderrig van toekomstige geslagte taalpraktisyns. Ons lewe immers, in die woorde van Peter Donoghue, '[a]t a time when celebrities can't write, corporations lie, actors can't sing, journalists run agendas, politicians deceive, and institutions are cowed, [therefore] we need editors with high standards to produce text readers can trust" (in Mackenzie 2004: 7).

Bronne

- Gouws, R. 2011. 'Teksredaksie' 'n aanwys vir Afrikaans. *Beeld*, 20 Februarie 2011. www.beeld.com/Vermaak/Nuus/Boeke-Teksredaksie-n-aanwys-vir-Afrikaans-20110220. Toegang verkry 10 November 2011.
- Kruger, H. 2007. Training text editors as part of a general programme in language practice: A process oriented approach. *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*, 25(1): 1-16.
- sfep. 2011. Judith Butcher. Society for Editors and Proofreaders (sfep). www.sfep.org.uk/pub/blogs/butcher.asp. Toegang verkry 10 November 2011.
- Kotzé-Myburgh, S. 2011. TEKSREDAKSIE deur WAM Carstens en Kris van de Poel. *Die Burger*, 31 Jan 2011. <http://blogs.dieburger.com/boekredaksie25/teksredaksie-deur-wam-carstens-en-kris-van-de-poel>. Toegang verkry 10 November 2011.
- Mackenzie, J. 2004. *The Editor's Companion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schoombie, T. 2011. 'Teksredaksie' 'n moet vir enige 'taal-geek'. In *Volksblad*, 18 Maart 2011. www.volksblad.com/Boeke/Nuus/Teksredaksie-n-moet-vir-enige-taal-geek-20110318 Toegang verkry 10 November 2011.



References [continued from page 6]

- Gil, JRB & PYM, A. 2002. Technology and translation: A pedagogical overview. http://lsg.urv.es/library/papers/BiauPym_Technology.pdf. Date accessed: 14 April 2010.
- Gouadec, D. 2007. *Benjamins Translation Library: Translation as a Profession*. Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Katan, D. 2009. Occupation or profession. *Translation and Interpreting Studies* 4(2): 187-209.
- Muzii, L. 2005. Quality assessment and economic sustainability of translation. *International Journal of Translation Studies* 9: 15-38.
- Picard, J. 1988. *Vertalers en Vertalings*. Pretoria: Serva-Uitgewers.
- Samuelsson-Brown, G. 2004. *A Practical Guide for Translators* (4th ed.). Toronto: Multilingual Matters.
- South African Translators' Institute (SATI). 2008. Freelance tariffs in South Africa. <http://translators.org.za/sati>. Date of access: 1 July 2010.
- South African Translators' Institute (SATI). 2010. (office@translators.org.za) 18 July 2010. SAVI Flits 45-2010: Tariefopnameresultate, geleenthede, parallelle tekste benodig, versoek om referate, opleiding. E-mail to: Visser, HM. (magicmedia@lantic.net)
- Venuti, L. 1999. *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation*. New York: Routledge.

Help for sworn translators



A manual on sworn translation is available from the SA Translators' Institute

This comprehensive manual on sworn translation arose as a result of a lack of clear guidelines on exactly how sworn translators should be going about their business. Many conventions and requirements have arisen over the years, but they were not put together in a single

source. Newcomers to the profession had difficulty finding out what they were supposed to be doing.

The manual should obviate these problems. It covers all aspects of sworn translation, from the requirements to qualify as a sworn translator to details of the various conventions, in addition to containing samples of documentation commonly used in South Africa.

Contents

1. What are sworn translators and sworn translation?
2. Legislation relating to sworn translation
3. What this means in practice
4. Your stamp and certification
5. Guidelines and conventions relating to sworn translation
6. Charging for sworn translations
7. Duties of a commissioner of oaths
8. Getting yourself known
9. Sworn/court interpreters and interpreting
10. The SATI exam for purposes of becoming a sworn translator
11. Useful resources for sworn translators

Annexure 1: Text of the Hague Convention relating to apostilles

Annexure 2: Samples of certificates issued to sworn translators

Annexure 3: Samples of stamps used by sworn translators

Annexure 4: Samples of certification statements used by sworn translators

Annexure 5: Samples of covering sheet for multiple sworn translations

Annexure 6: Covering letter for file of translated photocopies of documents for use in a court case

Annexure 7: Copy of regulations appointing sworn translators as commissioners of oaths

Annexure 8: Pro forma documents to be submitted when being sworn in

Annexure 9: Samples of common documentation

The manual is in A4 format and soft-covered, with 100 pages. It costs R120 per copy for Institute members and R180 for non-members.

To purchase a copy of the manual, contact Marion Boers on 011 803 2681 or publications@translators.org.za.

Marketing Solutions

Based on a highly successful workshop by Tina Potgieter, this book is a self-help guide to marketing your freelance business. The book teaches users to –

- assess where their business is at currently
- define exactly what their business needs are
- determine what their clients' needs are
- devise client-driven marketing strategies
- assess their competition
- determine which marketing methods work best for their business
- network successfully
- develop a practical marketing plan
- leverage themselves and build a successful business

A5 format, soft-covered, with 38 pages of excellent tips, many practical examples and implementable ideas.

Cost: R60 per copy for SATI members and R80 for non-members. To order, contact Marion Boers on 011 803 2681 or publications@translators.org.za.



Other publications

Remember *Veeltalige Vertaalterminologie* and *Teksredaksie*, both produced by SATI members. You can order the former through kalahari.net or On the Dot (direct. sales@onthedot.co.za; 0861 668 368) and the editing book through African Sun Media (021 808 2401; sun-e-shop.co.za).

