TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION AS A PROFESSION

Tess Whitty – Swedish Translation Services
- freelance translator, trainer, marketer, grader
What is required?

- More than being bilingual
- Formal language training
- Living in source or target language country
- Certification a plus
- Subject area knowledge
Please Keep chair on position &
Keep table cleaned after dying.
Thanks for your corporation.
ATTENTION GLISSANT
INTERDIT AUX + 5 ANS

BEWARE SLIPPERY
PEOPLE OVER FIVE
NOT ALLOWED

TXALUPA
What is the difference?

Translators
- Written communication
- Work into native language
- Need excellent writing skills in TL, excellent comprehension of SL
- Subject matter knowledge or expertise

Interpreters
- Spoken communication
- Can work in both directions (F<>E)
- Need good public speaking skills
- Consecutive vs. simultaneous
Types of translation

• Gist/FYI - summary, general meaning

• Inbound - within the organization, for informational purposes

• Outbound - external to organization, detail and meaning important
Machine translation

• Will **never** replace human translators...
• ...but do have a place in the industry
• Good for gist translations
• MT requires post-editing (another career)
The translation process

--The TEP Process--

Translate > Edit > Proof

- Terminology research
- Subject matter research
- Sentence structure
- Readability
- Check spelling, grammar, tables, charts, graphs
- Completeness
Types of interpretation

• Consecutive

• Simultaneous

• Escort
Working as a freelancer

- Flexibility
- Variety
- Highly competitive
- Continuous self-marketing needed
- Feast and famine
- Accounting and taxes
Working in-house

INDUSTRY
• Steady work but income capped
• Gain translation/interpretation experience
• Gain subject area knowledge
• Office politics

TRANSLATION COMPANY
• Translation
• Project coordination, editing, proofreading
• Interface between client and translator
• Exposure to all aspects of industry
How to find work

- Translation-specific résumé
- For freelance work, mainly online
- Apply to agencies
- Finding direct clients through research of, ex. exporting companies, and attending industry events
Working with agencies

- Samples and “test” translations
- See the job before you agree to it
- Establish rate & deadline up front
- Details: Reproduce charts, tables? Format exactly as original? Provide glossary?
- Ask for feedback, editor’s comments
- Agency takes care of marketing and project management
How much can I earn?

• Paid by the word in U.S.; other countries often pay by line or page
• Rates subject to supply & demand, language combinations
• Rates can vary according to difficulty, deadline, size of project
Freelancing & Home office

• Equipment: computer, Internet connection, e-mail; scanner, CAT tools optional, depending on specialization

• Business cards, website, separate phone line and business bank accounts

• Resource material (dictionaries, reference material etc.)
How I got started

- Resume
- Registered on online directories
- ATA Membership
- CAT-tool
- Continuing education in translation and CAT-tools
A typical day?

• No typical day if I do not want to
• 7-9 checking email and replying, planning my day, marketing
• 9-11 exercise
• 12-5 work
• 5-8 family duties
• 6 weeks of vacation, when I want, with a little bit of planning
Resources

American Translators Association
www.atanet.org
Translation training programs and requirements
http://education-portal.com/translation_training.html

Office of Language Services – US Department of State
http://www.state.gov/m/a/ols/index.htm
Questions?

Thank you!

www.marketingtipsfortranslators.com
www.swedishtranslationservices.com