

# Translating and Interpreting

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# What we're going to cover

- What are translating and interpreting?
- The Russian language
- The Russian alphabet
- Translation as art, not science

# Translating vs Interpreting

- Definition
- Why? When?
- Similarities and differences
- Skills required

# Types of Interpreting

- Consecutive
- Simultaneous...now you try it!

# Russian vs. English

- Alphabet
- Grammar
  - Gender for nouns
  - Case endings for nouns/adjectives
  - Person endings for verbs
  - Three tenses

# Russian vs. English

## ■ Syntax

- Near me two of hand (у меня две руки)
- 1 hand, 2/3/4 of hand, 5-20 of hands, 21 hand, 22/23/24 of hand, etc.
- No articles
- No "to be" – I very good translator

## ■ Culture

- Не плохо = not bad = good
- Norms of politeness
  - Ты / вы
  - Минуту, Да

# The Russian Alphabet

- A form of Cyrillic – Cyril & Methodius, 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- Largely derived from Greek
- Generally phonetic
- Compare with crazy English:
  - Tough, rough, cough, plough, bough, dough, though, through
- Let's try it!

# Let's read Russian!

- математика
- план
- такси
- кафе
- кофе
- меню
- трактор
- ресторан
- парашют
- класс
- шоколад
- интервью
- директор
- эквивалент
- эксперт
- инженер



# Fun stuff: Onomatopoeia

## ■ Animal sounds

- Гав-гав / gav-gav
- Кукареку / kukareku
- Хрю-хрю / khryu-khryu
- Ква-ква / kva-kva
- Чик-чирик / chik-chirik
- Жужжать / zhoozhat

# Fun stuff: Onomatopoeia

## ■ Other stuff

- Хихикать / heeheekat
- Хохотать / hohotat
- Икота / eekota
- Свистеть / sveestyet
- Шелест / shelest
- Шушукать / shooshookat
- Шёпот / showput
- Кашлять / kashlyat
- Чихнуть / chikhnoot

# The Art of Translation

- One word, many meanings
  - Draft
  - Mug
  - Ось - axis; axis pin; axle; arbor; axle-tree; axletree; beam; capstan; center line; center pin; center shaft; gudgeon; kingbolt; kingpin; pin; pin hinge; pintle; pivot; pivot axle; pivot journal; pivot spindle; pivot pin; shaft axle; spill; spindle; stud; tree

# The Art of Translation

## ■ Many correct answers!

- Поцеловав маму, Наташа встала и пошла к двери.
- Having kissed her mother, Natasha stood up and walked toward the door.

# The Art of Translation

## ■ Register

- James R. Smith, age 88, died yesterday after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by a daughter and two grandsons. Burial services will be held at noon on Sunday, July 12.
- Didya hear that old Mr. Smith finally kicked the bucket yesterday? Yeah, it was the big C that did him in. His poor daughter and her two kids. I hear they're going to put him in the ground at noon this Sunday.

# The Art of Translation - Idioms

- Give me a hand
- Get out of my hair
- We paid peanuts for it
- It's the cat's pajamas/the bee's knees
- Go fly a kite
- You're pulling my leg
- Early bird catches the worm
- Don't look a gift horse in the mouth
- An elephant stepped on his ear
- Let's return to our sheep
- You're hanging noodles on my ears

# Oops! Coca-Cola in China

- Ke-ke-ken-la
  - "bite the wax tadpole"
  - "female horse stuffed with wax"
- Ko-kou-ko-le
  - "happiness in the mouth"

# Oops! More Bloopers

- Hydraulic rams = wet sheep
- From a brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo:

When passengers of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage, then tootle him with vigor.



# And Another Blooper

From an elevator in Serbia:

To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving then going alphabetically in national order.

# Final Bloopers

