Translation and Interpreting as a profession
Some Basic Facts:

- Translation is written.
- Interpreting is spoken.
- Translators and interpreters work from their second language into their native language.
- Being bilingual is not enough. Additional training is necessary.
Translators usually specialize in a certain field:

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Translators work in a variety of settings.

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

I am going.
I am fine.
How are you doing?
To be
Run down the stairs
Translation is more than word for word substitution.

I am going. Yo voy.
I am fine. Estoy bien.
How are you doing? Como estas?
To be ser or estar?
Run down the stairs Bajar las escaleras corriendo
False Friends:
éxito vs. exit
embarazada vs. embarassed
introducir vs. introduce
constipado vs. constipated
Metaphors and idioms:

Ser del año de la pera
Estar sin blanca
A buen hambre no hay pan duro.
Ads / Localization:
More Breakfast, More Amazing!
¡Mas y mas y mas rico!
Translation practice:

Write down an example translation that shows one of these:

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


YES! It’s a growing profession! Why?

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

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

Translators do their work using special software tools:

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

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

Technology is an opportunity, not an obstacle to translators.
Translation is a great career choice!

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

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

www.atanet.org
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