Translation — Industry and Career Information

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Rendition close enough to the original not to alter any of its meaning, full enough not to omit any detail, no matter how seemingly insignificant, and elegant enough to provide at least some of the stylistic character of the original text.

Source: The Translator's Handbook

Definition of Translation

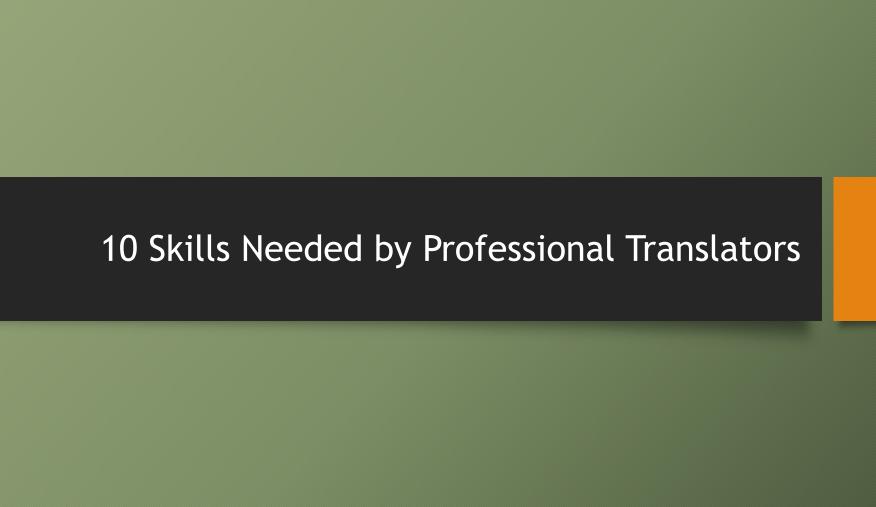
Translator Statistics

- 31% were born in the U.S.
- 31% are accredited by ATA
- 45% are full-time independent contractors
- 59% have master's degree or higher
- 23% have 0-5 years experience

Source: 2003 ATA T&I Services Survey

Types of Employers

- Law firms
- Corporations
- Federal, state, and local government
- Major organizations
- Publishers



10 Skills for Professional Translators

- 1. Have thorough knowledge of both source and target languages vocabulary equivalent to university education
- 2. Be "at home" in both cultures
- Keep up with growth and changes in languages and subject matters

10 Skills for Professional Translators

- 4. Translate from another language into your native language
- 5. Translate in more than one area of knowledge
- 6. Have facility for writing, quickly and accurately
- 7. Develop good speed

10 Skills for Professional Translators

- 8. Develop research skills and ability to acquire and use references
- 9. Use the latest technological developments
- 10. Realize certain languages are in high demand

Freelance Translating

Freelance Translating

Pros

- lot of independence
- more money

Cons

- developing and maintaining clientele
- maintaining steady work flow

Being in Business for Yourself

- Résumé and cards
- Rate range and subject specialties
- Professional business materials
- Equipment, tools, and resources
- Recordkeeping and taxes, insurance
- Marketing and networking



Translating for an Agency

Pros Cons

- They handle clients
- Steadier flow of work

- Less independence
- Less money

Understanding Agencies

- Processes
- Schedules
- Formatting
- Quality
- Communication
- Type of work

Getting Started with an Agency

- Testing
- Confidentiality contract and independent contractor statement

Getting Started with an Agency

- Translator instruction manual, instruction sheet, and templates
- "Beginner's" rate
- Close review of first jobs

- 1. Be accessible check fax, e-mail, and voice messages frequently
- 2. Say "no" when necessary but be open to workable solutions

- 3. Say "yes" to a nuisance job every now and then
- 4. Give advance notice of looming disaster and bring up problems

- 5. Miss only one deadline per job
- 6. Keep up with the industry
- 7. Teach your client if you find yourself mentally listing all the things you wish your client knew, go ahead and offer some education
- 8. Turn in jobs early!

- Anyone with two years of high school language, or who lived in another country for three years during early childhood, or who can type in a foreign language, can translate
- Translators can translate both ways just as easily

- A good translator doesn't need any reference literature
- A good translator gets it right the first time, without any editing or proofreading
- Translators will soon be replaced by computers

- A 100-page technical manual that took four months and three persons to write can be translated by one translator in two days
- Translating is just replacing each word in the source language with the same word in the target language
- Spanish is Spanish, all around the world

Computer-Aided Translation (CAT)

- Translation memory or terminology management tools that aid the human translator in producing applicable kinds of work better, faster, cheaper, easier
- Required by some agencies and end-user clients

Computer-Aided Translation

Requisites

- electronic file
- consistently and well written
- sufficient length
- repetitive content and/or developed glossary OR job that will be updated

American Translators Association

- More than 10,500 members in 100 countries
- Translators, interpreters, educators, and company owners
- Annual Conference of 1,500 to 1,800 attendees
- Certification Exam for Translators
- Online professional services directory