

# MICATA MICATA MONITOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-AMERICA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

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VISIT US AT [WWW.MICATA.ORG](http://WWW.MICATA.ORG)

## From the President

**DEAR FELLOW  
MICATA MEMBERS,**

Regarding upcoming events, please follow this link <http://micata.org/micata-events/micata-interpreting-workshop> to register for the workshop “*Interpreting for Mexican Defendants and Witnesses*” offered by Rogelio Camacho, which will take place on September 15-16, 2018 at Johnson County Community College (JCCC). Registration fee is \$225.00 for MICATA members and \$240.00 for Non-MICATA members. Here follows a brief description of the workshop:

### Interpreting for Mexican Defendants and Witnesses

*Translating the everyday Mexican Spanish spoken in the U.S. and Mexico*

**Workshop description:** The goal of this highly interactive class is to expand court interpreters’ prior knowledge of the everyday, non-academic Spanish used in Mexico and in the United States. This skill will enhance their ability to provide accurate English renditions. Class survey feedback shows that the course’s content is quite useful and pertinent; and the tools acquired from the class are immediately applicable to day-to-day work. Testimonials from previous participants are available at [www.rogelio.net](http://www.rogelio.net) to verify the relevance of this subject matter.

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It is with a heavy heart that I share with our membership the news of Meeri Yule’s passing. Using some of the words her friends at MICATA used to remember her, I’ll say that she was a friend and mentor to many. She had an amazing life and lived through many difficult experiences, yet was always gracious and kind, generous with professional advice and fun to be around. She taught many not only about the business of translation and interpreting, but also about music, languages, and gastronomy, including cardamom and lingonberries - and lingonberry liqueur.

I invite you to read the wonderful words Doris Ganser wrote about Meeri.

On another note, the MICATA election will happen soon and I encourage you to contact Nominating Committee member Rosario Garriga at [rgarriga@kc.rr.ccom](mailto:rgarriga@kc.rr.ccom) if you are interested in becoming part of the MICATA Board.

VISIT MICATA ON THE WEB AT [WWW.MICATA.ORG](http://WWW.MICATA.ORG) FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND MORE!

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Providing tools to interpret precise meaning and intent will enhance court interpreters' ability to better serve the Spanish speaking community.

And last but not least, mark your calendars and save the date! A fun and beloved MICATA event is coming! I hope to see many of you for the Annual Member Luncheon and Installation of the 2018-2019 Officers and Directors, which will take place on Saturday, September 22, 2018, 12:00 PM (NOON) at The Cube, Regnier Center on the campus of Johnson County Community College. A registration button will soon be uploaded to our website for you to sign up.

Best Regards and Happy Translating & Interpreting,

Marcela Renna

MICATA President 2017-18

***MICATA ELECTIONS***  
***COMING UP***  
***IN AUGUST!***  
***YOUR VOTE COUNTS!***

***AMERICAN TRANSLATORS***  
***ASSOCIATION MISSION***  
***STATEMENT***

*The mission of ATA is to benefit translators and interpreters by promoting recognition of their societal and commercial value, facilitating communication among all its members, establishing standards of competence and ethics, and educating both its members and the public.*

## *In Memoriam: Meeri Yule, a True Professional and a Great Friend*

*By Doris Ganser*

**M**eeri was born in Helsinki, Finland, on July 20, 1931, and grew up in a bilingual family with a Finnish mother and a Swedish father. Part of her broadminded character and her diplomatic skill probably originated from being old enough during the Second World War in Finland to consciously experience life in a country that remained democratic, while walking a fine line in its alliances with different countries as well as the deprivation suffered by the Finnish people due to its dependence on Germany for food and other essentials.

Her linguistic curiosity began as a small child - listening to broadcasts in French that she could not even understand, in school, an early desire to learn about other countries, particularly excelling in foreign languages (and everything else!) and reading, reading, reading.

She furthered her education at the Universities of Helsinki and Stockholm, taking summer courses at the Universities of Vienna and Strasbourg and obtaining a certificate in translation English <-> Finnish from the University of Cambridge, England.

After completing her studies, Meeri worked for ten years as an in-house translator in various industries in Helsinki and Stockholm. She married and her daughter Tina was born in Finland, but her first marriage did not last. With the strength she later displayed in all she did, she cared well for her child on her own until she met her wonderful American husband, Jim Yule, who, in addition to being an engineer, became a great translation supporter and a friend of MICATA after the family arrived in Kansas City via a number of assignments with NASA world-wide.

Sometime in the seventies, it was Jim who first called me at Transimpex, my translation business, offering me his wife as a translator for Finnish and Swedish. I showed only mild interest because prior to MICATA, most callers were bilinguals with little or no experience. And I had hardly ever needed Swedish translations and never any Finnish, so I told Jim that I could perhaps help her with advice for marketing herself to translation companies around the country.

When Meeri telephoned me, I immediately knew that I was talking to a REAL translator, and what had begun as a professional contact soon became a lasting friendship between our families. Meeri and Jim had another daughter, Joy, and a son, Geoffrey, both just a little older than my son.

I was already in the process of testing whether efforts within the framework of a workshop of the American Translators Association (ATA) could better educate local translators and interpreters. At that time, the Midwest and beyond, and particularly Kansas City, were a no-man's land as far as the ATA was concerned.

The ATA president who had informed me that money from the ATA for such an endeavor should not be expected, eventually advised me that none of the ATA workshops anywhere had been successful and suggested to not even try in the Midwest. Instead, I begged a few local client companies for seed money in \$50-increments, convinced Avila College (today Avila University) to let us have rooms free of charge, and began organizing the workshop on my own.

In doing so, I soon found enthusiastic support from Meeri, who, together with a handful of others, helped plan, address, stuff envelopes and lick stamps. When we had an excellent program with all presenters, authorities in their fields of expertise, free of charge and close to a hundred reservations, the ATA became interested. Half the ATA board showed up unannounced for the workshop that actually made money. We could not keep these proceeds, of course, and donated \$300 to the newly built Avila Library and the other half to the ATA.

To be able to retain and use such money in the future, we decided to form a chapter of the ATA - without much knowledge of ATA rules. We called it MICATA, the Mid-America Chapter of the ATA. Then we discovered that a chapter needed 20 active ATA members but there were only two of us in Kansas City, one, Susan Fershee, who became and remained Meeri's lifelong friend, so great a friend in fact that she spent much time with her during Meeri's last years and especially her very last weeks of life

### *In Memoriam: Meeri Yule*

and assisted her in many ways.

ATA accepted a few more local translators as active members, so that eventually we arrived at a total of 10, among them Meeri. I succeeded in getting on the ATA, board where I persuaded my fellow board members to grant us provisional-chapter status with those 10. After holding ATA accreditation (today certification) exams, we reached the 20 active members required for permanent-chapter status a year later.

In between more workshops, we held *Fora Linguarum* – frequent self-help group meetings for several languages, to which

MICATA members from outside Kansas City could send their translations of our published texts for correction; we compared our own translation solutions as well as mailed-in work. Meeri often provided her home and snacks for meetings and *Fora* and participated in several language groups. She also kept contact with translators from several states, encouraged them, and made sure that they received their corrected texts back by mail. In fact, I am almost sure that the suggestion for helping distant translators in this way had originally come from her.

By then, Meeri had agreed to become a MICATA Director as well as Membership Chair, a responsibility she kept and fulfilled seriously until just two or three years ago. She recruited many of those who became MICATA as well as ATA members over the decades.

When another local ATA group reneged on hosting the next ATA annual conference (at that time convention), fledgling MICATA suggested Kansas City as replacement with less than a year of preparation time. We were sure that if we could put together workshops, we could also do



an ATA Conference, although Meeri and I had only been to a single ATA Conference. No one told us that the ATA office administrator and the ATA Vice President were responsible for much of the conference organization and mailings, and by the time we found out, we had established a bank account, had picked a hotel, had mailings and program ideas ready, and more. Once again, much bagging and stamp licking followed, with Meeri and Jim among those around my dining room table laboring.

As an early riser, Meeri had volunteered to be the greeter at the Kansas City ATA Conference hotel, registering participants and handing out envelopes. That's when her

talent as diplomat came to light. While she was at the reception desk, a disgruntled ATA member tried to crash the conference (long story), and a very dangerous and explosive situation ensued. With charm and restraint, she kept him under control and managed to alert hotel security personnel to have him removed without creating much attention by the rest of those waiting to register and just minutes before Jim Yule arrived with Senator Paul Simon, the keynote conference speaker he had picked up at the airport.

When my husband died, I was still on the ATA board. Meeri and Jim Yule generously kept my young son at their home during my three-day ATA board meeting absences, picking him up from school more than 30 miles away and even getting him to his baseball games. Joy and Geoffrey Yule treated him like a brother, and my son told me that his substitute mother Meeri was a much nicer mother than I.

With her charisma and her personality (reflected in the picture above), meeting people by phone and in person,

### *In Memoriam: Meeri Yule*

activities in MICATA workshops and ATA conferences, and membership in other professional associations, such as the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) and the Swedish Professional Translators Association (SFÖ), Meeri touched many; she made friends around the world and will not easily be forgotten by anyone who ever met her. But she impressed most by her translating ability and was soon able to build an excellent professional freelance translator practice, becoming an indispensable and reliable resource to numerous translation companies. Eventually, she was one of the most respected Finnish and Swedish scientific, legal, and technical translators anywhere. In 1993 she was honored by the annual award of the Federation of Authorized Translators in Sweden (FAT) ". . . for extraordinary deeds within the field of professional translation."

What Meeri did for MICATAns was perhaps best described in the note from Ann Wescott, former MICATA president, now in Spain, who wrote upon hearing of Meeri's demise:

*She had an amazing life and lived through many difficult experiences, yet was always gracious and kind, generous with professional advice and fun to be around. I learned so much about the business of translation from her, and also about Scandinavian and Finnish cultures, music, languages and gastronomy (she introduced me to cardamom and lingonberries - and lingonberry liqueur). Meeri had been in my thoughts at the end of last year, even before Susan first contacted us. For the first time in many years I found / made the time to do some Christmas baking.*

*The first recipe on my list was one that Meeri used to serve at MICATA Christmas parties and which she shared with me more than 30 years ago: Mjuh Pepparkaka / Soft Spicecake. . . . I've taken the last loaf out of the freezer today, and after dinner Gabriel and I will have a slice with a glass of sweet wine and offer a toast to Meeri and MICATA friends, both present and those who have passed (Jim, George + Ian are very present in my thoughts as well). I've scanned my copy of the original recipe in Meeri's handwriting and attached it should anyone wish to have it in memory of Meeri. I have wonderful memories of MICATA/ATA friends and*

*our gatherings: for fora linguarum, at ATA conferences, at Emile's on the Plaza, and especially at Doris's for the summer party and at Meeri and Jim's home for Christmas."*

In addition to Meeri's activity on behalf of MICATA, where she eventually held every office – president twice – Meeri became very active in ATA; she served on the ATA Board of Directors and the Ethics Committee, chaired the Honors and Awards Committee and the ATA Chapters Committee; the Chapters Committee and a chapters newsletter exchange originated from efforts started by a MICATA member during the Kansas City Conference, and Meeri cooperated in its creation.

The rest of Meeri's family could not escape cooperation in MICATA: Jim gave several educational workshop presentations on technical subjects to MICATAns, Joy was enlisted to assemble a MICATA songbook for Meeri's famous Christmas parties, and to design a MICATA membership certificate.

Meeri was a woman who exuded a great sense of professionalism and strength. Her strength was, however, tested almost too many times during the past decade, when multiple tragedies struck her life within a few years of each other: her daughters, Tina and Joy, and her husband, Jim, all passed away, leaving her with Joy's young daughter, whom she eventually adopted as her own. And yet, through all this, Meeri remained strong, never lost her sense of humor, put up visiting translators at her house and mentored others, and until a year or so ago continued translating.

Gabe Bokor, whom many will know from his functions in the ATA and as the creator of the very professional Translation Journal, wrote about Meeri:

*[Meeri's illness] touched me in a very special way, since Meeri was the very first ATA member I got to know 39 years ago when I signed up with her to the 20th Annual Conference held in Kansas City. Ever since then, I was fortunate and honored to be able to call her my friend. . . . I'm thinking of her and of all the fun times and serious conversations we had together.*

Those of us who knew Meeri personally and even those who had only long-distance contact with her will dearly miss her, a Great Translator, a Great Friend, and a Great Lady.

# CONFERENCE GALLERIA



*Ted Wozniak, ATA President-Elect*



*Barry Slaughter Olsen, Presenter*



*Abigail Dahlberg & Frieda Ruppenner-Lind*

**MICATA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
*THE CHANGING LANDSCAPES OF  
TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION*  
**MARCH 23-25, 2018**  
**REGNIER CENTER & NERMAN MUSEUM,**  
**JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**OVERLAND PARK, KS 66210**



*Regnier Center & Nerman Museum*



*Joseph Mazza, Head of Romance Languages U.S. State Department*



*Marcela Renna, MICATA President*

## MISCELLANY

### SELECTIONS FROM JANUARY – MAY 2018 ATA NEWSBRIEFS

#### INDUSTRY NEWS

##### **Demand for Translators and Interpreters Skyrocketing**

*CNBC (NJ) (07/07/17) Rogers, Kate*

The American Translators Association (ATA), citing data from the Department of Labor, reports that the professional translator/interpreter population has doubled in the past seven years, while the number of companies in the industry has climbed 24% in that same period. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts employment for those in the industry will grow by 29% through 2024. "As the economy becomes more globalized and businesses realize the need for translation and interpreting to market their products and services, the opportunities for people with advanced language skills will continue to grow sharply," says ATA President David Rumsey. Rumsey adds that the association predicts that the largest growth is within contracted positions, giving workers and companies more flexibility. Rumsey stresses that multilingualism is only one ingredient for successful employment, explaining that translators who want to distinguish themselves professionally should keep refining their skills. "It's a lifelong practice, and it requires keeping up not only with your language skills, but also your subject matter skills so that you really understand the industries and fields in which you are working," he notes. While there was once a fear that technology would replace humans in the process as demand for services increased, the opposite has happened—it's enhanced their work. "The overall industry is growing because of the amount of content out there—it's increasing exponentially," says Jiri Stejskal, president and chief executive officer of CETRA. [Stejskal is an ATA past president.] "Technology is helping to translate more content, but you still need an actual human involved."

##### **Meet a Guy Who Makes a Living Translating Emojis**

*CNBC (NJ) (07/17/17) Graham, Luke*

Emojis may seem simple and fun, but using them incorrectly can be a huge embarrassment to companies, potentially damaging their brands, especially when trying

to connect with an international audience. That's why some companies are reaching out to specialists, like Keith Broni, to help them navigate safely through the growing emoji media minefield. Last December, London-based translation company Today Translations put out a call for an "emoji translator." The job listing made news, partly because of its novelty—it's believed to be the first role of its kind. Broni beat 500 other applicants for the job. His first translation for the company involved changing several idioms (such as "no pain, no gain" or "speak of the devil") into understandable emoji versions. Since then, Broni's clients have included public relations firms and the marketing departments of multinational companies. Broni says that companies trying to reach an international market need to be aware that certain emojis hold different meanings for different cultures. For example, the "thumbs-up" emoji is popular in the West, where Facebook users "like" posts with the thumbs-up button, but the gesture is traditionally considered offensive in the Middle East. The same goes for the "A-OK" hand gesture, which is offensive in Latin America. Even the basic happy face isn't so basic. In China, Broni says it's often used to convey that you're finished with a conversation. Broni explains that another issue with using emojis is that they can differ in appearance from platform to platform. Broni says emojis can be very helpful to businesses because they add emotional context and nonverbal communication to a piece of text. "Emojis allow us to imbue digital messages with the nonverbal cues inherent in face-to-face interaction," Broni says. "They allow us to signify the emotional context of a statement that would normally be conveyed in vocal tone, pose, or gesture, rather than just the words themselves."

##### **New Study Calls for More Language Learning**

*Inside Higher Ed (DC) (02/28/17) Flaherty, Colleen*

A new report by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) on the future of language education in the U.S. calls for sustained funding and creative partnerships to increase teaching capacity and boost language learning. "America's Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century," which the AAAS delivered to Congress in February, was produced in response to a bipartisan request from senators and representatives in 2014 to find out what the U.S. could do to ensure excellence in language education. The report states that the U.S. must "value language education as a persistent national need" similar to education in math or

## MISCELLANY *(continued)*

English. "Our greatest challenge is one of teaching capacity," says Paul LeClerc, director of Columbia University's Global Center in Paris and chair of the AAAS Commission on Language Learning. The report recommends hiring more teachers in pre- and K-12 schools and supplementing language instruction across the education system through public and private partnerships among schools, government, philanthropies, businesses, and local community members. The report states that an expanded capacity in world languages is a "social imperative," citing the need for more qualified language experts (including interpreters and translators) who can read, write, and speak a wide range of languages to help bridge language barriers. LeClerc says having more Americans with competency in languages other than English "is essential from virtually any point of view you can think of"—from economic growth and competitiveness to national defense to increased academic achievement. "The greatest risk for failing to implement the key recommendations in this report is to further aggravate national isolationism," says Rosemary Feal, fellow AAAS commissioner and executive director of the Modern Language Association. Feal says language learning is one of the best ways to cultivate empathy, and "the earlier in children's education the process starts, the more likely they are to become well-functioning global citizens."

### **Second Edition of *Dictionary of Canadianisms* Now Online**

*Toronto Globe & Mail (Canada) (03/10/17) Valpy, Michael*

The second edition of the *Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles* will be published online to coincide with Canada's official 150th anniversary. A team of linguists and lexicographers at the University of British Columbia's Canadian English Lab worked for 10 years on the project. Its objective is "to provide a historical record of words and expressions characteristic of the various spheres of Canadian life during the almost four centuries that English has been used in Canada," says Stefan Dollinger, the dictionary's editor-in-chief. The dictionary contains cultural terms from colonial, indigenous, French, American, and other languages that have shaped Canadian English. Entries are accompanied by extensive explanations of how and when a word was first used, along with its etymology and reasons why it qualifies as a Canadianism. Many entries are illustrated by photographs,

graphs, or YouTube videos. One of the most extensive entries—4,833 words—is for the Canadianism "eh." The dictionary states that "eh" has become what linguists call a stereotypic marker of identity, explaining that "immigration officials used it as an identifying clue to tell Canadians from Americans." The dictionary is funded by the Canadian Embassy, Queen's University, University of British Columbia, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

### **Lyft Helping Former Interpreters for U.S. Military**

*Washington Post (DC) (01/03/18) Horton, Alex*

Lyft, the ride-hailing company, is providing job opportunities to former military interpreters to help them reestablish themselves after immigrating to the U.S. Lyft launched its pilot program in October in Washington, DC, with the goal of supplying interpreters with driving jobs. In some cases, Lyft provides automobiles and ride credits to help interpreters get to appointments, such as consulate and medical visits. Steve Taylor, general manager of Lyft's DC office, says the nation's capital is an important proving ground for the program, as almost 10,000 special immigrant visa holders reside in the metropolitan area.

"Most people have never thought about interpreters," says former Afghan interpreter Ajmal Faqiri, one beneficiary of the Lyft program. "Interpreters are a very important element of the U.S. military." According to the Department of Defense, about 69,000 Iraqis and Afghans—interpreters, contractors, and their families—have fled their native countries since 2008, when the U.S. Department of State began issuing special immigrant visas to those who worked with U.S. troops. Many of these immigrant interpreters now face dire poverty. In spite of efforts by nonprofits to locate and subsidize housing, former interpreters often lack the work history to secure even basic jobs. Many have no credit history to acquire loans or apartments. Sometimes interpreters only have enough money to get themselves to the U.S., and cram into apartments with other refugees to avoid living on the street. The Lyft program is a joint effort with No One Left Behind, an advocacy group focused on getting more combat zone interpreters to the U.S. and providing guidance and financial assistance. No One Left Behind has helped about 5,000 interpreters and their families since it was founded in 2013 by Matt Zeller, a former U.S. Army

## MISCELLANY *(continued)*

officer. Zeller's interpreter, Janis Shinwari, saved Zeller's life in a firefight in 2008 by killing two Taliban militants, sparking a revenge campaign against him and an effort by Zeller to bring him to the U.S. "The only difference between me and Janis is where we were born. Interpreters are more of a veteran than I am," Zeller says. "I only did one tour. Janis served nine years." Faqiri worries that some Americans are suspicious of former military interpreters and view them as militants. But he carried a weapon to defend U.S. troops against those insurgents. Faqiri says that if interpreters are not recognized for their service, it will be difficult to find people like him to help the U.S. military in the next war. "If other countries see that the U.S. left behind their allies, they won't help them," Faqiri says. "It's very important for the U.S. to keep its word."

### "Countries that are dirty like toilets," and Other Ways Trump's Expletive was Translated Abroad

*Washington Post (01/12/18) Schmidt, Samantha*

The task of deciding what to do with expletives uttered by world leaders—and whether to censor such remarks in news reports—is challenging enough for the U.S. press, but imagine trying to convey these phrases so they make sense in a different language. That head-scratching dilemma played out in newsrooms around the world after it was reported that President Trump referred to Haiti, El Salvador, and African nations as "shithole countries" while discussing immigrant protections with lawmakers. Every culture has its profanities, to be sure, but they do not always translate well. The main daily newspapers in El Salvador, one of the countries mentioned by Trump, went with the translation *agujeros de mierda*, which essentially means "holes of shit." Alex Segura, Washington correspondent for the Spanish news agency EFE, tweeted about the debate with his editors concerning how to translate Trump's words. Segura says the options considered included "shitty countries," "unclean countries," and "pigsties." The two words from which "shithole" are formed are not that difficult to translate individually, according to linguist Juliane House, the former president of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies. Most languages have some equivalent for the first part of the combination—or at least some profane variation of a word for excrement. "It's a bodily function," says House, who is also a professor at the University of Hamburg. The word

"hole," by itself, is also easy enough. But what happens when you put those two words together? Is it an adjective or a noun, and how do you use it in a sentence to describe certain countries? Editors from various news organizations need to approve the wording for articles prior to publication. In many cultures, discussing excrement and using profanity—even when quoting a world leader—may be a serious taboo. Depending on the political or moral leanings of a news organization, editors may choose to clean up the expletive. "Translation is never neutral, so ideology comes in, and probably pressure from above," House says. Some foreign news outlets took an easier approach when quoting Trump—disregarding the word "hole." Most French media went with the phrase *pays de merde*, which essentially means "shitty countries." This meaning is quite clear, says Bérengère Viennot, a professional French translator who has often been tasked with translating Trump's remarks. In Finnish, one translation of the phrase was *persläpimaat*, which literally means "asshole countries." "This kind of language often makes for some entertaining discussions in the newsroom," says Judith Meyer, executive editor of the *Sun Journal* in Lewiston, Maine. "Even though the world around us is changing, we are sticking to our standards at the *Sun Journal*. This means we look at a quote and ask if it's really necessary to tell the story." Steve Greenlee, managing editor of the *Portland Press Herald*, says the press has to adapt to changes in language usage. "We're seeing an increasing amount of crassness in political discourse, which means we have to deal with it more often."

### Bookselling Without Borders Works to Spread Translated Literature

*Babel (NY) (01/16/18) Devlin, Thomas Moore*

Michael Reynolds, editor-in-chief of *Europa Editions*, hopes his Bookselling Without Borders initiative will bring more translated literature to the U.S. and Britain. Reynolds began Bookselling Without Borders in 2017, when he sent a bookseller to a book fair in Frankfurt, Germany. This year, Bookselling Without Borders is expanding, having partnered with more publishers. It has also launched a "kickstarter" initiative to send more people to Europe and Mexico to find underrepresented writing.

## MISCELLANY *(continued)*

"Booksellers tend to hand sell—that is, to recommend what they have read and what they have heard other people talk about and recommend to them," Reynolds says. "Our hope is that by bringing U.S. booksellers to the international book community, they'll hear about books that, a few years hence, will be out in the American market, and they'll be more likely to read them, talk them up, and recommend them." Reynolds believes the success of breakout international authors such as Karl Ove Knausgaard and Elena Ferrante will prompt other publishers to take more chances with works from abroad. "I like to think that among publishers, there is also a growing sense of the deeper significance and importance of publishing truly diverse and global voices," Reynolds says.

Reynolds cites multiple factors driving interest in translated literature, including readers' desire for differing perspectives, different stylistic voices, and good stories. "We need to 'normalize' the publishing, translation, selling, and reading of work in translation going forward," he says. "While it is discussed to death, it remains a rarefied endeavor, and thus an activity for the few rather than the many."

### **Schools Are Ill-Prepared to Educate 'Superdiverse' English-Learners**

*Education Week (MD) (02/22/18) Mitchell, Corey*

According to a new report from the U.S. Migration Policy Institute, public policy, research, and teaching methods have not adjusted to accommodate the nation's increasingly diverse English-language-learner population. The report states that while more education programs and systems now have practices in place to support Spanish-speaking children, the "sheer diversity of languages spoken by families with young children makes providing bilingual education to all dual-language learners an unrealistic and unattainable goal." In addition to exploring the policy implications of the growing diversity, the report examines the needs of three specific groups: Asian American and Pacific Islander language-learners, language-learners from Africa and the Caribbean, and young children of refugees. It also analyzes the growth of language diversity in states and counties across the U.S. The authors say a failure to track state-level data on language backgrounds has left teachers, administrators, and lawmakers in a bind. As a result, they are forced to

make policy and program adjustments without a full understanding of students' linguistic and cultural diversity. "At a time when dual-language learners are speaking a far more diverse range of languages, many communities across the U.S. are experiencing classroom diversity with little to no guidance on effective practices for promoting their cognitive and socio-emotional development," the authors write. "As this diversity continues to grow and shift, early childhood education and care systems and programs will need to build strategies to effectively meet the learning needs of these children and support their parents in doing the same." To help address those concerns, the report makes the case for a more diverse early childhood workforce, improved tools to assess the development of dual-language learners in early childhood education programs, and more research to develop teaching approaches that can work in "superdiverse" classrooms where students speak several languages.

### **Hawaiian Court Interpreting Gaining Prominence**

*NBC News (NY) (02/28/18) Wang, Frances Kai-Hwa*

The practice of conducting court proceedings in Hawaiian is regaining prominence in Hawaii following several high-profile court cases.

One such case occurred in January, when an arrest warrant was issued for Samuel Kaleikoa Ka'eo, an associate professor of Hawaiian studies at the University of Hawaii Maui College, after he appeared in court but refused to identify himself in English, speaking only Hawaiian. Although the warrant was recalled the following day, Ka'eo feels the judge did not understand why it was necessary to provide Hawaiian interpreters for court proceedings. "This is not just about language," Ka'eo says. "This is a larger question in which Hawaiians have been struggling to become visible within Hawaii and the world."

English and Hawaiian are both official state languages as stipulated by Hawaii's constitution, yet court proceedings are conducted in English. Interpreters are supplied for people with limited English proficiency, but in the past Hawaiian interpreters were not required in court when parties also spoke English.

As a growing number of Native Hawaiians choose to testify in Hawaiian, the courts are grappling with how to accommodate them and record their testimony. As a result, the Hawaii State Judiciary has issued a new policy

## *MISCELLANY* (continued)

stating that the "judiciary will provide or permit qualified Hawaiian language interpreters to the extent reasonably possible when parties in courtroom proceedings choose to express themselves through the Hawaiian language."

Court interpreter orientation workshops for this year began in February. "The judiciary would like to register as many interpreters proficient in all languages as possible, but especially in Pacific Island languages," says Jan Kagehiro, director of communications and community relations for the Hawaii State Judiciary.

In addition, members of the Hawaii senate have also revised legislation to appropriate funds for the University of Hawaii at Hilo to translate the state constitution into Hawaiian. This legislation would also require the courts to provide interpreters if anyone involved in a legal proceeding asks that the case be conducted in Hawaiian.

### **Judge Orders Compensation, Reclassification for Immigration Court Interpreters**

*Los Angeles Times (CA) (03/14/18) Agrawal, Nina*

A judge for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has ruled that SOS International (SOSi), which is under contract with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide immigration court interpreters nationwide, illegally retaliated against a group of interpreters for organizing for better pay and must offer them reinstatement and back pay. Michael Rosas, an administrative law judge in Washington, DC, said SOSi misclassified those interpreters as contractors instead of employees and violated the National Labor Relations Act by terminating them. In addition to reinstatement and back pay, Rosas ordered SOSi to reclassify its interpreters who work in immigration courts as employees.

The judge's ruling, if upheld, will affect hundreds of interpreters who have been contracted by SOSi to work in immigration courts across the country. Those courts are facing a growing backlog of nearly 700,000 cases. The majority of cases are conducted in a language other than English, so their outcomes can hinge on accurate interpreting.

The ruling also comes at a time when the use of independent contractors in many sectors of the economy is being debated. "This is an important issue nationwide," says Lorrie Bradley, the attorney who represented the interpreters. "Misclassification is one of those things that happens everywhere, literally from high tech to agriculture." The case stems from a series of disputes between the interpreters and SOSi dating back to 2015, when the

company was first awarded the DOJ contract and offered some longtime interpreters a wage of \$35 an hour—significantly lower than what they had earned previously. That wage didn't include payment for time spent traveling between assignments or waiting in line at courthouses, compensation for parking, or other work-related expenses, or any minimum guarantee of hours. Many interpreters balked and organized to negotiate a higher rate. They were ultimately successful, securing rates of \$225 for a half-day and \$425 for a full day, plus additional compensation for travel cases. But SOSi later refused to renew their contracts—an action that formed the basis for the charges interpreters filed with the NLRB. After investigating those charges, the NLRB filed a formal complaint against SOSi last spring. A trial was held in September.

SOSi issued a statement expressing its disagreement with Judge Rosas' ruling, stating it will likely appeal. "We follow industry practice of drawing from a large number of independent, sub-contracted interpreters to meet our DOJ contract requirements," SOSi stated. "We continue to feel that our position is consistent with past legal precedent and that the contractual arrangements between the contracted interpreters and SOSi remain consistent with the mutual intent of both parties."

### **Stakes High for Those Interpreting for Trump and Kim**

*Daily Beast (NY) (03/24/18) Stein, Sam*

Should Donald Trump meet with Kim Jong Un for a historic high-stakes nuclear summit, one of the more critical responsibilities will fall on the interpreters in the room. The role that interpreters play in presidential meetings is often overlooked, if not entirely ignored. And for good reason. The interpreter is, at his or her most basic level, an oratorical tool for a conversation between other individuals. Interpreters are accessories, not players, but they don't just interpret words robotically. Their job often involves a fair amount of intuition, study, and diplomacy. Those tasks become exceptionally more difficult at a summit with world leaders. For the one set to happen between Trump and Kim, the hurdles are even higher due to the enigmatic nature of both leaders and the existential nature of the talks. "These are historical talks, if they happen, and the interpreter will play a huge part in this," says ATA Spokesperson Judy Jenner, who teaches translation and interpreting (English/Spanish) online at the University of California San Diego-Extension. "Kim doesn't speak English, as far as we know," she says. As for Trump, "it would be

## MISCELLANY *(continued)*

easier if you know him and worked for him, but he is a significant interpreting challenge." When Trump speaks to Kim, a fair amount of editorial leeway will fall on his interpreter to communicate exactly what the president is saying. "Any kind of translation or interpreting is the rendering of the idea from one language to another," says Dimitry Zarechnak, who served as Ronald Reagan's interpreter during his summit with former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "The term *literal* or *word-for-word* doesn't mean anything because it's always subject to interpretation."

Oratorically, Trump couldn't be more different. The president rarely stays on talking points and often has a disjointed speaking style. He doesn't make up words, but their meaning is not always readily apparent. Occasionally, he will contradict himself in a matter of moments. "Usually, the clearer you are as a speaker the easier it is," Jenner explains. "If you ramble a lot, don't speak in full sentences, and leave thoughts hanging, it isn't easy to interpret." Understanding precisely what Trump hopes to convey is one hurdle, but interpreting it for Kim's interpreter is another. For example, there are idiosyncrasies that separate the Korean that is spoken in North Korea from the version spoken in South Korea. Mainly, there are fewer foreign words and influences that have made it into the language of North Korea, owing to the country's isolated status globally. In the end, an interpreter can make adjustments on the fly. Zarechnak says that twice, maybe three times, in his career, he paused his interpreting to clarify an error his speaker had made. The conversation stopped, reversed course, and then started all over again. Zarechnak says he's never deliberately softened a message because of the geopolitical horrors that could ensue upon its delivery. "No, I've never gone rogue."

### **Hawaiian Language Taking Off on Hawaiian Airlines**

*Associated Press (04/15/18)*

Hawaiian Airlines may soon get a complimentary language lesson as the airline amplifies efforts to preserve traditional Hawaiian by incorporating it into everyday business.

Cabin announcements and crew instructions were given in English and the traditional Hawaiian language on a Las Vegas-bound flight this month, marking the first time the language was utilized on a flight headed to the mainland. Hawaiian Airlines stated that the goal is for flight attendants to provide a "one-of-a-kind cultural experience by engaging with guests in both Olelo Hawai'i and English."

The idea was tested earlier this month on four flights to Hilo. Both the in-flight announcements and announcements at the

gate were provided in Hawaiian. A spokesperson for the airline stated that the "initiative is an extension of the airline's commitment to honor and share our Islands' unique culture with guests visiting Hawaii."

Hawaiian Airlines hopes to expand and formalize the language immersion program in the coming months.

### **Prescriptions Translated into Spanish Could Be Hazardous**

*HealthDay News (CT) (04/08/18) Thompson, Dennis*

According to a new study published in the journal *Pediatrics*, many Spanish-speaking people in the U.S. receive prescription instructions that are so poorly translated that the medications are potentially hazardous to their health.

"The errors occur largely because of deficiencies in the computer programs most pharmacies rely on to translate medication information from English into Spanish," says Iman Sharif, the study's lead researcher who is chief of the division of general pediatrics at the Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware.

Sharif says that 50% of the Spanish-language prescription labels reviewed for the study contained errors, some of which could lead to life-threatening situations if misinterpreted by the patient. Almost all the pharmacies surveyed stated that they had someone double-check the labels for errors, but researchers still found dozens of examples of poor translation.

Sharif says the use of Spanglish is a common problem, noting that the computer programs pharmacies use generate a mix of English and Spanish, creating confusing instructions that are difficult to read. Spanglish usage also created potentially hazardous scenarios. For example, the word "once" means "eleven" in Spanish. "The wording on the label says 'once,' as in 'take once a day,' but a Spanish-speaking person could interpret that to mean 'eleven,' which could lead to an overdose," Sharif says.

Sharif adds that misspellings are another problem. She saw the word "poca" instead of "boca" on one label, which meant that patients were being instructed to take medications "by the little" instead of "by the mouth."

David Flockhart, director of the division of clinical pharmacology at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, says it's not surprising that computer-generated errors are occurring. "Word-for-word, you could probably get it right, but you can't get the entire sense of what's being communicated through a computer program."

The sheer volume of information that a pharmacist must provide every day also makes it difficult for people with a shaky grasp of Spanish to catch errors. "It's a particular issue

## MISCELLANY *(continued)*

because the Physicians' Desk Reference that pharmacists use is so huge," Flockhart explains. "It's nearly impossible for pharmacists who speak little Spanish to relay information accurately."

Sharif believes these errors help explain why non-English speakers tend to receive poorer health care in the U.S. "This is something that is a critical contribution to disparities in care," she says. "Many people who don't speak English can't understand how to use their medications. This is one piece of that puzzle."

Sharif says software firms need to create better programs if patients are to be better served, since it's unlikely that every pharmacy in the U.S. will be able to find and hire qualified translators or interpreters to produce labels and instructions. "We need the technology industry to step up and improve the way pharmacy prescription software translates drug instructions."

Flockhart says the best solution is to hire more bilingual pharmacists. "I doubt you could improve the software to the point where it's as good as a pharmacist who speaks Spanish," he says. In the meantime, Sharif says Spanish-speaking patients need to protect themselves. "My recommendation would be making sure you ask for an interpreter who speaks your language to explain how to use the prescribed medicine."

### **French EU Envoy Walks Out in English Row**

*Reuters (Brussels) (04/26/18)*

Philippe L eglise-Costa, France's ambassador to the European Union, walked out of a diplomatic meeting last month after the EU Council decided to use only English-language interpreters. Many view L eglise-Costa's action as a demonstration by France to curb the dominance of English in post-Brexit Brussels.

According to several participants, L eglise-Costa left the meeting on the Multiannual Financial Framework after refusing to sign off on a Council Secretariat decision that asked representatives of other EU countries to agree on using English for the group's meetings. "The ambassador left the room to show his disapproval," one EU diplomat said of L eglise-Costa's decision to leave after discovering that no interpreting would be provided in French.

Officials involved in organizing the talks said interpreters were not provided in order to ease the logistics of calling informal discussions. However, that decision angered French diplomats seeking to assert the leading role their language has played in the EU for so long. (France helped establish the EU six decades ago.) Without interpreters, nearly all other countries' officials converse in English by default.

L eglise-Costa argued against the Council's decision, saying that France was defending "multilingualism as well as Francophony," particularly within a group that would be discussing billions of euros in revenues and spending. "France demands that those who wish to speak in their language be provided interpretation," L eglise-Costa stated.

### **Botched Subtitles Plague Avengers South Korean Release**

*Korea JoongAng Daily (04/28/18) Min-Ji, Jin*

While Avengers: Infinity War is a major box office draw in South Korea, the translator responsible for the Korean subtitles in Marvel's latest superhero flick is under fire for inaccurate translations.

The poorly translated subtitles have angered the public, and some fans have even brought the issue to the office of South Korean President Moon Jae-in. A petition circulated on the website of South Korea's executive office calling for the translator's termination has garnered over 3,000 signatures.

Park Ji-hoon, who wrote the Korean subtitles for the film, also wrote the subtitles for several other superhero films released in Korea, including Suicide Squad (2016), Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice (2016), and Captain America: Civil War (2016). Nearly every movie has been criticized for containing translation flaws.

"Even for ordinary people who don't speak English fluently, it's easily recognizable that this translator's English doesn't even reach a basic level," the petition states. The petition suggests that corruption or nepotism might explain why the translator continues to get work on projects despite his poor translations.

Many were displeased, saying that the mistranslations altered the meaning of some of the scenes. In one scene from the recent Avengers movie, the foul-mouthed Nick Fury, played by Samuel L. Jackson, comes close to delivering an expletive with the word "mother ...," but the Korean subtitle just reads "mother." But perhaps no bungled translation has angered more fans than the final scene, where Doctor Strange, played by Benedict Cumberbatch, says, "End game." The line is translated in Korean as "There's no hope." However, despite the translation issues, Avengers: Infinity War has still managed to sell 1.58 million tickets in South Korea so far, accounting for over 90% of all ticket sales.

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