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Translation And Voice Recognition Software

By John Stroman

This article was originally prepared as notes for a presentation at the Ohio Hon'yaku Get-Together held on February 16, 2002 in Columbus, Ohio. It was updated on June 17, and was "written" with voice recognition software in about 35 minutes, although preparations took much longer.

For a professional translator the most important question to ask concerning voice recognition software is: "Will it make me more productive?" Productivity involves the ability to work both quickly and accurately to produce a high-quality document in the time frame requested by the client. Therefore,

any kind of tool to improve productivity must enable the translator to work either faster or more accurately. Physical comfort and freedom from physical problems such as repetitive stress injuries are also important factors in long-term productivity.

Simply speaking, translation involves two components: a *mental* component in which the meaning of the source language is converted into an equivalent meaning in the target language, and a *physical* component in which the words are put onto paper (or into a machine). Voice recognition software addresses mainly the physical aspect, i.e., putting words onto paper, but it also affects the mental aspect because it involves different work habits.

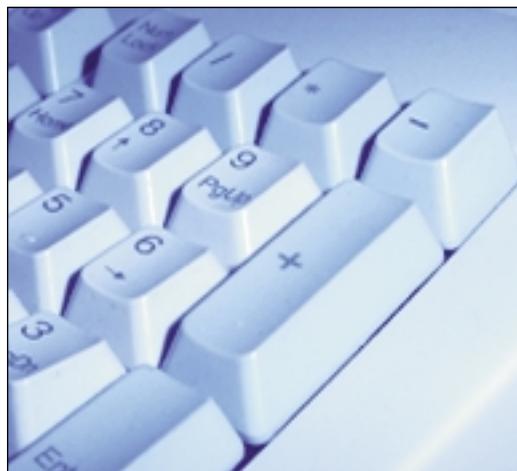
To determine whether voice recognition software will make your work more produc-

tive, it is important to conduct a cost/benefit analysis of some kind. The software discussed here is NaturallySpeaking® for Windows®, which has consistently won awards for excellence and is considered the best software on the market. (IBM's ViaVoice® is also considered quite good, but I have no personal experience with it.)

NaturallySpeaking is sold in business supply stores such as Staples® in the United States. The original manufacturer, Dragon Systems, was owned by Lernout & Hauspie, which underwent bankruptcy proceedings and was acquired in December 2001 by Softscan Inc. More information about Naturally

Speaking can be found on the ScanSoft website at <http://www.ScanSoft.com>.

NaturallySpeaking comes in three levels: essential, standard, and professional. For a translator the *essential* version might be an interesting toy, but it is not really suited for professional use. The *standard* version used to cost \$200-250, but because Microsoft has packaged voice recognition into its XP professional operating system, the price of NaturallySpeaking has dropped. (I have been told that the MS voice recognition software is quirky and not suitable for professional use). As of this writing, NaturallySpeaking 6 *essential* sold for about \$60, while Naturally Speaking 6 *standard* sold for about \$90. In comparison, ViaVoice 9 was about \$100 for advanced and about \$200 for *professional*.



The *professional* version of NaturallySpeaking used to cost approximately \$650; I was unable to find a current price. Some information can be found at <http://www.brainstormcorp.com>, which is a co-developer. The *professional* version is marketed to heavy volume users in specialized fields, such as physicians and attorneys, and the only advantage it has over the *standard* version is a larger pre-input dictionary of specialized terminology. Although I know some medical translators who use the *professional* version, I think the *standard* version is adequate because it has a practically inexhaustible (several thousand word) dictionary building function. Both the *standard* and the *professional* versions of Naturally Speaking use the same input engine, so accuracy is not significantly improved with the *professional* version.

In addition to software, hardware to

run the system may involve additional costs if you do not already have the proper setup. NaturallySpeaking comes with its own microphone/headset, but I prefer a hand-held microphone in case I need to get up and retrieve a dictionary from across the room. In general, microphones can run anywhere from \$10 to \$200. I have experimented with several microphones, and I currently use a hand-held *karaoke* microphone that cost \$12.95 at Wal-Mart. The most important characteristic of the microphone is that it must be *unidirectional*. An omnidirectional microphone, such as an inexpensive one that sits on a tabletop, picks up too much background noise, which the software interprets as random words. (My dog had quite an extensive vocabulary when I used an omnidirectional microphone.)

Other than the microphone, for NaturallySpeaking 6 you must have a

PC with Windows 98 or higher. You must also have a Pentium II 400 MHz processor or equivalent, a minimum of 128 MB RAM, 300 MB disk space, a CD-ROM player (for installation) and a Sound Blaster 16 sound card or equivalent. Although your computer may already meet these minimum requirements, I have found that for *efficient* operation voice recognition software requires as much RAM as the computer can hold, and I have maximized mine at 256 MB. Fortunately, additional RAM is not terribly expensive. I would also recommend a faster processor. I still use a 466 MHz, and sometimes have to wait more than a minute while the software is learning new words.

In addition to considering the monetary cost, it is often a good idea to make a parallel list of pros and cons when performing a cost/benefit analysis.

Pros

***NO TYPING!** Actually, voice recognition software requires some typing during the proofreading process, but it clearly cuts down on the amount of wear and tear on your fingers and wrists. I estimate that using voice recognition software enables me to reduce my typing by 90% or more in many documents. Supposedly you can use dictation to run Windows commands, etc., but I have found that awkward and slow.

***VOICE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE NEVER MAKES SPELLING ERRORS.**

***YOU CAN PROOFREAD AS YOU GO.** Generally I proofread my documents two times: once for mechanical errors and once for consistency (see below). Using voice recognition software allows me to perform my first proofreading as I go along, one paragraph at a time, so that the final draft is nearly a finished document and only needs to be proofread for consistency of terms and style.

***YOU CAN GO AS FAST AS YOU CAN TALK.** Most people can speak much more quickly than they can type, with the average person speaking approximately 120 words per minute in English. Voice recognition software is especially good with numbers, and if you need to input a lot of numbers you can go very fast.

Cons

***To use voice recognition software you must make MENTAL ADJUSTMENTS.** In other words, you must learn to switch from a visual→typing mentality to a visual→speaking mentality. Naturally, there is a learning curve involved, which means that initially your productivity will go down, and even when your productivity catches up, you will always have the *perception* that you are going slower than when you are physically typing.

***VOICE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE NEVER MAKES SPELLING ERRORS.** This is listed as a liability because it renders your spell checker useless. Voice recognition software makes recognition errors, and these appear in the document as properly spelled but incorrect words.

***DIFFERENT PROOFREADING SKILLS ARE NEEDED.** When you use voice recognition software, the types of errors that occur are different from simple typos and easy to overlook. For example, a/the, but/that, were/or, and homonyms such as here/hear are common recognition errors that you must learn to look for in proofreading, because they are always spelled correctly.

***VOICE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE IS NOT SUITED FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF DOCUMENTS.** This software is very good with straightforward text, but if you must do a lot of formatting, or input many symbols and subscripts or superscripts, typing may be faster. The NaturallySpeaking software claims to work seamlessly within Microsoft Word, but it is not able to reproduce the symbols and formatting that some technical documents require.

Continued on Page 4

JLD Times

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From the Administrator

Izumi Suzuki



In the last newsletter, I mentioned a few of the JLD activities that will take place at the upcoming ATA Conference in Atlanta. You may have also read about the JLD educational sessions being organized by the Program Committee.

Although it is wonderful to spend time with JLD colleagues at the convention, it is also very interesting to meet with translators and interpreters working in different language pairs. In this letter I will discuss other activities that will take place in

Atlanta that I know about from attending the conference for the last decade. The ATA will issue a program booklet with a conference registration form sometime in August, so please check it for specific information.

On Wednesday immediately before the conference, the ATA offers pre-conference sessions lasting about three hours each. I attended one last year for the first time and learned a lot about parliamentary procedure and court interpreting ethics. If you have time, it's a very worthwhile day.

On Wednesday evening there will be a reception for all JLD members. This is where we network, enjoy free food, and exchange "Wow, it's been awhile" comments. Then we go to the JLD Informal Gathering where we introduce new and old members. Here, conference speakers will talk about their sessions. Use this opportunity to decide which sessions you want to attend.

If you are an interpreter or are interested in becoming one, you will want to check out the educational sessions given by the Interpreters Division. Many but not all in the division are Spanish/English court interpreters, so the educational sessions are usually not language-specific. Their ID Dinner will be on Thursday, which won't conflict with our JLD Dinner on Friday.

And then there is the accreditation exam, usually held on Saturday. You must register in order to take the exam, but there is still plenty of time to do so, as long as you will have been an ATA member for a month or longer at the time of the exam. You can only take an exam in one language pair at a time (English to Japanese, or Japanese to English). This year's exam has a new format: Instead of choosing three passages out of five, you will choose just two passages. One of them must be a General passage; the other can be either from Science/Medical/Semi-technical or from Business/Legal. The Literary passage has been eliminated. The duration is the same as before: three hours. The grading method will be changed, too. Instead of major E and minor e, the graders will use more detailed grading: -2 (e-), -4 (e+), -8 (E-) or -16 (E+). An exam scored -16 or less will pass. I expect there will be a session in which the Accreditation Committee will explain those changes in detail. If you want information right away, you can contact Accreditation Manager Terry Hanlen at terry@atanet.org.

So there will be a lot going on at the Conference. Of course there will be the Opening Session, the Closing Banquet, the Job Exchange, many booths staffed by agencies and vendors, and optional sightseeing tours. I guarantee it will be well worth your time and money. See you all in Atlanta!

Voice Recognition (from Page 2)

*NATURALLY SPEAKING HAS LEARNING AND TRAINING FUNCTIONS. What this means is that you can easily train the computer to recognize specialized vocabulary, you can use it to make short abbreviations of long terms, and the software itself is designed to fine-tune the recognition of your individual speech patterns every time you use it, so the result is increased efficiency over time.

*YOU MAY HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR WORKING ENVIRONMENT. For example, if you like to play a music CD on your computer while you are working, this may overload your CPU or cause problems with word recognition since the sound card is being used simultaneously by two pieces of software. It is also important to have a relatively quiet background environment, although a unidirectional microphone cuts down on unwanted sounds that your computer will interpret as words.

Examples of Draft Input and Proofread Result (newspaper article)

Since NaturallySpeaking has its own notepad window, I prefer to use that for initial dictation and have MS Word open in the background. I dictate into the NaturallySpeaking notepad, where I correct recognition errors and perform training, and then cut and paste into MS Word. The default font for NaturallySpeaking is Arial, and the font I use for finished MS Word documents is Times. Therefore, I can easily distinguish the dictated (draft) input from the finished (i.e., proofread) sections of the document. Immediately after the paste, I proofread the draft input carefully for recognition errors and add any symbols and formatting that NaturallySpeaking does not handle directly (Greek alphabet, superscripts, subscripts, some math symbols, etc.) Then I select the input I have proofread, change the font to Times, and save. What results is a Word document that has already been proofread once for mechanical errors and needs only one more proofing for style and consistency. Separating the two proofreading functions enables me to concentrate on one thing at a time and work more efficiently.

Below is an example of draft input and a proofread final result from a newspaper article. The draft input actually includes some "errors" that I would normally correct orally within the NaturallySpeaking notepad (such as the software's choice of the symbol "<" for the spoken words "less than" in the first line, and inconsistency between "one-half" and "1/2"). Therefore, the recognition accuracy for what I actually dictated (noted at the end) is really about 96%.

Draft Input:

< 8 hours sleep at night might be healthy

Associated Press

Chicago—Don't fret if you don't get 8 hours of sleep at night—the research suggests adults live longer if they get six or seven. Still, even the study's authors say it is not time to reset the alarm clock just yet. The research is based on a nationwide survey of 1.1 million adults. It found that those who slept eight hours a night were 12 percent more likely to die within six years than those who got 6 and one-half to 7 1/2 hours of sleep. The increased risk was more than 15 percent for those who reported getting more than 8 1/2 or less than about 4 hours nightly. The participants were ages 30 to 102. Few reported frequent insomnia—which, despite popular belief, was not associated with increased risk of death. "Additional studies are needed to determine if setting your alarm clock earlier will actually improve your health," said lead author Dr. Daniel Kripke, a psychiatrist at University of California at San Diego. The study was published in February's Archives of General Psychiatry. Sleep experts said the research, though provocative, has several flaws. The study was not actually designed to look at sleep's effect on longevity. It relied on patients' recollections of their sleep habits and did not ask if they took naps. It did not look at the quality of people's sleep or whether they felt drowsy all-day.

Proofread Input: (corrections underlined)

Less than 8 hours sleep a night might be healthy

Associated Press

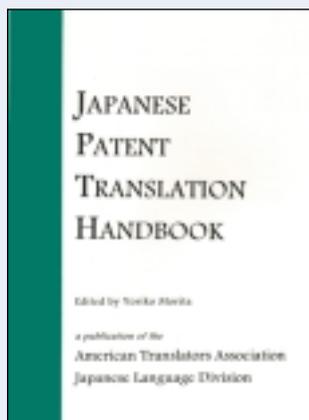
Chicago—Don't fret if you don't get

8 hours of sleep at night—new research suggests adults live longer if they get six or seven. Still, even the study's authors say it is not time to reset the alarm clock just yet. The research is based on a nationwide survey of 1.1 million adults. It found that those who slept eight hours a night were 12 percent more likely to die within six years than those who got 6 1/2 to 7 1/2 hours of sleep. The increased risk was more than 15 percent for those who reported getting more than 8 1/2 or less than about 4 hours nightly. The participants were ages 30 to 102. Few reported frequent insomnia—which, despite popular belief, was not associated with increased risk of death. "Additional studies are needed to determine if setting your alarm clock earlier will actually improve your health," said lead author Dr. Daniel Kripke, a psychiatrist at University of California at San Diego. The study was published in February's Archives of General Psychiatry. Sleep experts said the research, though provocative, has several flaws. The study was not actually designed to look at sleep's effect on longevity. It relied on patients' recollections of their sleep habits and did not ask if they took naps. It did not look at the quality of people's sleep or whether they felt drowsy all day. (Corrections: 19/241 words. Recognition accuracy: 92+%)

I hope this presentation gives you an idea of the benefits of voice recognition software. With the recent decrease in the cost of the software, I think it is definitely worth giving it a try, but I recommend learning to use it during a slow time and not when a deadline is rapidly approaching. I suggest you devote one hour of the workday to using the software with the understanding that your productivity will drop for a while. Once you get used to using voice recognition,

I think you will find it a handy tool for speeding through many jobs.

John Stroman's formal education includes degrees in Chemistry, TOEFL, and English, and he has taken additional graduate courses in linguistics and biomedical science. John taught English in Japan for 11 years and worked in the US as a biomedical research assistant and a translator/interpreter for a Japanese automaker. He has been an independent translator since 1989. Currently specializing in biomedical and pharmaceutical translations, John lives in rural Ohio with his wife, Eiko, and 2 dogs and 2 cats. His hobbies include golf and ragtime piano.



Japanese Patent Translation Handbook

Get your copy of this 219-page introduction book published by our very own Japanese Language Division. Available for \$25 for ATA members; \$45 for non-members. To order, call ATA at (703) 683-6100 or e-mail ata@atanet.org.

Translating Patent Claims

By Gerry Gooding

The demand for translation of Japanese patents remains stubbornly strong despite slow-downs in the economy. If you are new to this kind of translation, however, there are a few things you ought to know before taking on that first job. First, get a copy of the Japanese Patent Translation Handbook, which was written by your colleagues in the JLD and published by the ATA. You can start translating patents before reading the entire book, but keep the handbook at your side in the beginning. It will answer many of the questions you are certain to have.

A patent grants the patent holder a monopoly on an invention for a specific number of years. During the term of the patent, the patent holder has the right to prevent others from making, selling, or otherwise exploiting the invention. In exchange, in the patent application the applicant must teach the public how to make and use the invention, and must also provide a precise legal description of it. This precise legal description is referred to as a 'claim.' The patent claim is analogous to a real property deed; it defines the boundaries of the property (invention). Needless to say, in patent disputes the courts focus primarily on the claims. If an element is not claimed, it is not covered by the patent right.

A claim is always written as a single sentence, but that sentence can, and often does, fill an entire page. Short claims are

rare, but they do exist. Consider the following claim from Japanese pre-grant publication no. H5-141063:

発光性物質による装飾的表示が化粧面に施されていることを特徴とする構築物用内外装材。

This claim might be translated as:

An interior/exterior ornamental treatment for buildings characterized by application of ornamental markings of luminescent material to cosmetic surfaces.

I stated above that a claim is always a single sentence, but the above claim is not a complete sentence. What I really should have said is that each claim completes a sentence that starts with 'we claim,' 'I claim,' 'the claimed invention is,' or something similar. Each claim, however, starts with a capital letter and ends with a period, as if it were a sentence. Multiple claims are written in the following form:

[The claimed invention is:]

1. An interior/exterior ornamental treatment ... to cosmetic surfaces.
2. The interior/exterior ornamental treatment of claim 1 characterized in that ... (greater detail) .
3. The interior/exterior ornamental treatment of claim 1 or 2 characterized in that ... (greater/different detail).

This first part of the claim sentence is not required in Japanese, but no one will complain if you include it in the translation. If it is omitted from an application filed with the USPTO (United States Patent and Trademark Office), the office will simply add it.

Note that the above claim 1 is an 'independent' claim, and claims 2 and 3 are 'dependent' claims. In U.S. patent practice, a dependent claim may depend from a claim 1 or 2, etc., but never from a claim 1 and 2.

The phrase を特徴とする (characterized by, characterized in that, etc.), which appears at the end of most Japanese claims, makes a claim open-ended: That is, in the above example, an ornamental treatment that includes other elements not mentioned in the claim may also be covered by the patent. In U.S. patents, the term 'comprising' (meaning 'including') performs a similar function in claims having the form:

An apparatus for doing something, comprising an A, a B and a C.

Since 'comprising' is not limiting (i.e., since it makes a claim open-ended), a patent for the invention defined by the above claim might also cover an apparatus made up of an A, a B, a C, and a D.

In Chapter 4 of the ATA Japanese Patent Translation Handbook, Jon

Johanning covers the above points in much greater detail than we can cover them here. Jon's chapter teaches the translation of published Japanese patent documents. A translator new to patent material should probably begin by translating published documents. Translating unpublished patent applications for filing in the U.S. is a task that requires additional knowledge. Chapter 5 of the handbook, which was written by Bill Lise, provides an excellent background and good advice for those interested in the latter kind of translation.

The following list of claim translation don'ts may be useful to readers who are new to patent translation.

Needless to say, in patent disputes the courts focus primarily on the claims. If an element is not claimed, it is not covered by the patent right.

1. Don't carelessly use 'consisting of A, B, and C,' instead of 'comprising A, B, and C.' 'Consisting of' is proper only when the intent is to limit the claim to only the recited elements.

2. Don't make something plural if it was not specifically plural in the Japanese. That is, don't say 'screws' if 'a screw' would also be a correct translation. This applies even if the drawing shows several screws.

3. Don't use 'the' widget unless referring to a previously mentioned widget. (Use 'a' widget instead.)

4. Don't add 'whereby,' 'thus,' etc., unless it is clearly stated in the Japanese.

This rule applies even when you think 'whereby' was intended and is essential to the meaning.

5. Don't break a claim into smaller sentences to make it easier to understand. It is acceptable to clarify the meaning by indenting within the claim, however.

I started this article by saying that there is a strong demand for translation of Japanese patent material. If you'd like to get in on the action, take Nike's advice and 'just do it.' To obtain a copy of the Japanese Patent Translation Handbook, visit the ATA web site at www.atanet.org, or call ATA headquarters at (703) 683-6122.

Gerry Gooding became an ATA-accredited Japanese-to-English translator in 1989. He is also a registered U.S. patent agent.



Voice Recognition for Translators Or why I started talking to my computer

By Lee Seaman

Editor's note: An earlier rendition of this article appeared in an issue of the JLD Times several years ago. Lee was kind enough to update the information it contains.

Almost four years ago I began using voice recognition software for at least 80% of my translation work. It isn't perfect, but it has been much better than I expected. In this article I will explain why the product works well for me. I will also tell you how I think it can be useful for other translators.

My experience

I have been translating medical and pharmaceutical materials full-time for almost twenty years. Nearly ten years ago I developed wrist problems that became so severe that I began using a transcriptionist. The first several months were frustrating, because I was accustomed to editing my work as I wrote, and with a tape recorder I no longer had

that option. Also, I generated only about thirty hours of transcription per month, and the flow of work was irregular, which made it difficult to find or train a good transcriptionist. However, even with these problems I found that transcription was time- and cost-effective after about six months.

My husband began experimenting with voice recognition software about a year before I did, and after I saw what he was able to do with it I decided that when my current transcriptionist retired I would switch to voice recognition software rather than training another part-time person. I began planning for the change in September and made the switch in November of 1998.

My first step was to study the available software. I decided to use Dragon Naturally Speaking ("NatSpeak"), partly because Dragon Systems has been in the voice recognition business for a number of years and has a good reputation, but mostly because my husband was already

familiar with the program. Other companies also provide high-quality voice recognition software, including ViaVoice by IBM, which I know only by reputation. My comments here are based on NatSpeak, but I will provide information on user mailing lists and websites at the end of this article for readers who wish to find out more about other software packages.

According to the advertisements, my computer had just enough RAM for the software package I wanted. However, comments from actual users indicated that I needed a much more powerful system. Since time is money in our business, I decided to save money by buying a new computer, a Pentium II 300 MHz processor with 128 MB of RAM and a Dragon-approved sound card. I then installed NatSpeak Preferred under Windows 95.

I was so happy with the results that I decided to save more money two months later by upgrading to a 400 MHz proces-

sor and 256 MB of RAM, which was very cutting-edge at the time. I also upgraded my software to NatSpeak Professional and a better microphone, at which point my husband pointed out that we couldn't afford to save any more money just then. However, two years down the road I upgraded my system again, this time to Windows 2000 with an 800 MHz chip and 512 MB of RAM. This has proved to be quite a stable system and is what I am using today with only minor modifications.

I planned on three months to learn the program and regain my former level of productivity. It actually took two months, which was a pleasant surprise.

I think one of the reasons I have been pleased was that I did not expect too much from the program. (In fact, I expected it to be a lot of trouble, just like any new and complicated software. And of course it is.)

The technology, in my experience, is not yet as reliable as a good transcriptionist. For one, it makes some whopping errors. (My recent favorites are "fatal signs" instead of "vital signs," "vacuum nation" for "vacuolation," and "minced rating" for "menstruating.")

There are several advantages, though. One is that if I take the time to train the software as I go, I only have to spell any word once (including the names of bacteria, as long as I don't forget the pronunciations). Another is that the software is available day and night, so I don't have to work around a transcrip-

tionist's schedule. The third is that I can proofread as I go (hard to do with a tape recorder), which saves editing time and improves accuracy. And the fourth is that I don't have to train or pay a transcriptionist.

Things that make it easier

So maybe you're thinking voice recognition could be a useful tool for you. Here's some advice.

First, use a good microphone. NatSpeak Preferred, priced at about \$200, comes with a serviceable microphone, but it is less comfortable and less accurate than the one provided with NatSpeak Professional (about \$700). You can buy a high-quality microphone alone for around \$80 (mine is a Parrot, but there are other good ones) without investing in the professional version of the software.

Second, optimize your computer for voice recognition. NatSpeak has its own simple word processor that works quite well at 300 MHz and 128 MB, but that configuration is glacially slow when running NatSpeak inside MS Word. With 512 MB of RAM and an 800 MHz chip, the delays are no longer irritating. I also paid extra for a Soundblaster sound card, which is one of several that Dragon recommends. (Turtle Beach is also supposed to be good.) From what I read on mailing lists, cheap sound cards can cause a lot of problems. Life is too short to be that frustrated.

Third, train the program thoroughly. In addition to reading at least one of the long training passages when I first set up the program, for the first several months I also read a short passage every day or two before starting dictation. (I got that hint from a site connected to Dragon's website, and it has really helped.) Be sure to

use the same dictation speed and speaking style that you plan to use for your regular dictation. Recent modifications in the program make it much easier to handle rapid speech and slurred speech, but if you speak clearly and distinctly when you are training and then rapidly when you're actually dictating, you'll be working against yourself.

Fourth, speak clearly. You don't have to speak slowly, but make the consonants particularly clear. (By the way, if you have command recognition problems, it sometimes helps to SOUND as if you are snapping at the computer. The software doesn't really work better if you get angry—it only seems that way because anger makes most of us sharpen our consonants.)

Fifth, take the time to train words as they come up, rather than just typing them in and going on. It's slower in the short run, but training the program really improves recognition. (And back up your speech files REGULARLY onto some sort of removable medium like a zip drive or CD—an ordinary floppy disk is much too small—because those speech files soon represent literally hours of training.)

Although I am happy with NatSpeak Professional, it is significantly more expensive than NatSpeak Preferred (approximately \$700 vs. just under \$200 online), and for most individual translators Preferred will be adequate. Professional has a large medical vocabulary, works fairly well within MS Outlook, and will allow me to write macros when I get around to it. Professional also permits multiple vocabularies and the addition of separately available medical terminology modules from third-party developers, but I have found these to be unnecessary in my situation.

Things that make it harder

One of the reasons I am pleased with voice recognition is that my other options were expensive, unpleasant, and time-consuming. So I was highly motivated to make the program work. But the



The author takes advantage of voice recognition software for her projects.

technology is far from perfect. I think it would be particularly frustrating for translators who:

- Already have a completely satisfactory transcriptionist
- Expect to talk to the computer as if it were a transcriptionist
- Intend to use the software with a tape recorder
- Plan to run the software on an underpowered machine
- Have no difficulty in typing and no experience with dictation
- Try to use the software immediately under deadline pressure
- Try to use a computer with an unimproved sound card
- Do not speak clearly
- Are unwilling to train (and be trained by) the program
- Cannot afford a few months of reduced income

Things that will make it easier in the future

This technology is changing rapidly, with new microphones coming out almost every month. For example, the new USB microphone technology makes sound cards unnecessary, an advantage for people who use more than one computer. There are also wireless microphones and directional noise-canceling microphones coming onto the market. As the hardware technology improves, accuracy keeps increasing.

As new chips are optimized for voice

recognition, the time for initial training is going down (about 5 minutes now, down from 30 when I started). Other improvements are being made, too, and I expect to see voice recognition become increasingly user-friendly in the next few years.

My recommendations

Voice recognition works well for me because I had been dictating my translations for several years before I started using the software. I speak clearly, and I don't mind training (and being trained by) my machine. I was also able to invest in a new computer with enough power to run the program efficiently. Even though I ended up spending over twice as much as I originally planned, my first new system paid for itself within 9 months, and the upgrade did so within a year.

If your situation is similar to mine and you want to use voice recognition full-time, I recommend a high-end program like NatSpeak Preferred or Professional. Study the options, get an adequate system, check out the websites at the end of this article, budget enough time for training, and dive in.

If you don't want to commit to using the program all the time but would like to

play with it, check out the system requirements and keep them in mind for your next computer upgrade. Then get a copy of NatSpeak Preferred or one of a similar competitor and play with it in your spare time or on some translation work when you are not under a deadline.

If you decide that the technology is interesting but not quite ready for "prime time," stay tuned. There are more devel-

opments in the offing.

Resources

- <http://www.scansoft.com/naturallyspeaking>
- <http://www.sayican.com>
- <http://www.dragonsys.ca/docs/hardware.htm>
- <http://www.pcspeak.com/hints.htm>
- <http://www.mtmeetingplace.com> (website for medical transcriptionists and other voice recognition users)

Lee Seaman began the study of Japanese as a college exchange student at Waseda University in 1968, and then returned to live and work in Japan from 1971 to 1981. She has been translating medical and pharmaceutical documents as a full-time freelance for nearly 15 years. For health and sanity maintenance, she practices and teaches the soft martial art of Shintaido (新体道) including 棒術 (quarterstaff) and 木刀.

JLD Members in the News

Editor's note: Although you might not have realized it, Ann Macfarlane, former ATA President, is a JLD Member. The JLD congratulates Ann for the following achievement and wishes her success in her duties.

As of July 1, the Board of Directors of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) has retained Ann G. Macfarlane as Executive Director. Ann served as President of the American Translators Association from

1999 to 2001. I am personally delighted to welcome Ann on board, as I have seen first-hand the creative and thoughtful leadership she brought to the ATA. I believe that we are fortunate to have her with us. You may view her resume by going to the NAJIT website or directly to this page:

www.najit.org/macfarlane_resume.php.

Sincerely yours,
Cristina Helmerichs D.
Chair, Board of Directors
National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators

Corrections

The sentence "Appositives are also a way to structure phrases with ...を中心に、主に、and 得に." in Matthew Monfort's article in the Summer 2002 issue should have read "Appositives are also a way to structure phrases with ...を中心に、主に、and 特に."

Review

By Tom Gally

Details

『グランドコンサイス和英辞典』
(*Grand Concise Japanese-English Dictionary*, 三省堂, June 2002, 2,528 pages, 7,000 yen plus tax, ISBN 4-385-10905-2)

Expectations

When I first heard about this dictionary in April 2002, I was very excited. I was told that it would have over 200,000 entries, making it one of the largest commercially edited and published Japanese-English dictionaries ever and the first new large J-E dictionary to be published in decades. Although I expected the dictionary to be aimed at native speakers of Japanese, I was hopeful that it would be a useful reference for non-Japanese as well. And since Sanseido's kokugo dictionaries, especially *大辞林* and *三省堂国語辞典*, are among the best, I thought that the quality of those dictionaries might rub off on this one.

Appearance

I had heard a couple of negative comments about the format of this dictionary's companion volume, the *Grand Concise English-Japanese Dictionary* (2001)—in particular, that some people had found the typeface cramped and hard to read—so I was pleasantly surprised by the layout and design of this book. While the type is small, I find it clear and easy to read, and two-color printing is used effectively to highlight the headwords. The paper is sufficiently opaque, and despite the number of pages the book is light and easy to handle. At 7,000 yen, it is reasonably priced for a dictionary of its size.

Target

Within a minute or two of flipping through the dictionary, I confirmed that it was aimed at native speakers of Japanese. The introductory matter is in Japanese only. There is no *kanji* or *jukugo* index. And while no grammati-

cal information is provided about Japanese words, there are tables of irregular English verbs and nouns in the back, and English nouns in definitions are marked for their countability status. This should be expected: The vast majority of users of Japanese-English dictionaries are native speakers of Japanese, so commercial publishers naturally direct their efforts at that large market. While nonnative students and users of Japanese can benefit from this and similar dictionaries, they should remember that such books are not designed to meet their specific needs.

Size

According to the paper slip around the dictionary's case (the *おび*, a word not defined in this sense in the dictionary itself; another Japanese-English dictionary glosses the word as “narrow book wrapper”), this book contains 210,000 entries, including both headwords and related words, and 110,000 example sentences. Since large *kokugo* dictionaries such as *大辞林* or *広辞苑* are said to contain around 230,000 entries, this suggests that *Grand Concise* should have an equally complete coverage of Japanese vocabulary.

A quick glance through the pages, though, shows where many of *Grand Concise*'s entries come from. Here are just a few that caught my eye:

ハードタイムズトークン 【米史】
(代用硬貨) a Hard Times token
ハモントン Hammonton 《米国New Jersey州南部の町》
ピケンズ Pickens, Andrew (1739-1817) 《独立戦争時の米国の将軍》

In case you're not an expert on American numismatics, Hard Times tokens were coins issued in the United States during financial crises in the

mid-19th century. Hammonton, New Jersey, is a town with a population of 12,604. Andrew Pickens, as the entry helpfully explains, was a general in the American Revolution.

Here are some company names that appear in this dictionary:

ジェネラルアクシデント General Accident 《英国の生命保険会社》
シーエムエスエナジー CMSエナジー
— CMS Energy 《米国の電力・ガス関連の持株会社》
シェーリング・プラウ Schering-Plough 《米国の医薬品・健康用品メーカー》

Here are some company names that do *not* appear in this dictionary:

ソニー (Sony Corporation)
新日本製鐵 (Nippon Steel Corporation)
森永製菓 (Morinaga & Co., Ltd.)



In other words, three fairly obscure companies outside Japan merit entries in this dictionary, while three leading Japanese companies do not. Not by coincidence, Sanseido's *Grand Concise English-*

Japanese Dictionary has entries for General Accident, CMS Energy, and Schering-Plough but does not list Sony, Nippon Steel, or Morinaga. It also has entries for Hard Times token, Hammonton, and Andrew Pickens.

For a large English-Japanese dictionary, including such proper names makes sense. Japanese readers may encounter those words in their reading and want to identify them. But who on earth is going to want to know how to say *ハードタイムズトークン* or *ハモントン* or *ピケンズ* in English?

Clearly this Japanese-English dictionary has been padded with thousands of terms taken wholesale from the publisher's English-Japanese dictionary,

terms that have no reason to be in a Japanese-English dictionary. Meanwhile, many terms that *should* be in this dictionary are not. So while the dictionary claims to have 210,000 entries, the number of useful entries—that is, words that Japanese speakers are likely to want to know how to say in English—is perhaps only half that many. This dictionary, while still large and useful, now seems much smaller than it first appeared.

Entries

I did a quick survey of the dictionary's entries in two ways: I checked whether and how it handled certain problematic words, particularly those that have been treated in jeKai or discussed on the Honyaku mailing list, and I read all of the entries on several randomly chosen pages and looked for any problems that caught my eye.

First the good news: Some entries that have been poorly handled by other dictionaries are treated adequately in this dictionary. Three examples are フロン, 六曜, and 風俗: フロン is not mistranslated as “flon” or “fleon,” as it has been in other dictionaries (though there is nothing for 特定フロン); the 六曜 entry would be useful to a Japanese person who wanted to explain the meaning in English; and the 風俗 entry includes the subentry 風俗嬢 “a girl who works in the sex industry,” which at least mentions in passing the most common meaning of 風俗 in contemporary Japanese.

However, in more cases I was disappointed. The “consumer” meaning of 民生用 is absent, as is the “kanji invented in Japan” meaning of 国字. Both 軽油 and 重油 are poorly translated; the “diesel oil” meaning of 軽油 is absent, and the “crude [raw] petroleum; heavy oil” gloss for 重油 is a mistake—crude petroleum is 原油, not 重油. There is no entry for the increasingly ubiquitous ICカード, which is normally called a “smart card” in English (though there is an entry for スマートカード, another example of an entry clearly taken from the English-Japanese

dictionary). ソフト化 is mistranslated as “softening of the economy”; ソフト化 refers to the shift away from manufacturing to an information- and service-based economy, while “softening of the economy” means an economic slowdown. 直下型地震 copies the mistranslation of other dictionaries (“an epicentral earthquake”). The “potty” meaning of おまる is missing. There is no entry for シーズ (even though this word, like 民生用, is found in Sanseido's own 大辞林) or 消費(者)マインド “consumer confidence.” フレッシュャー is translated as “a fresher” and フレッシュマン as “a freshman,” both of which are misleading (the Japanese words are often used to mean “a newly hired career-track company employee,” while the English words normally do not have that meaning). And there is nothing for ものづくり.

Grammar

While the dictionary intends to mark whether English nouns are countable, in just a few minutes of skimming I spotted many mistakes. Some correct examples are the following three from pages 2,028-2,029:

プレビュー a preview
ブレンドウィスキー (a) blended whiskey
フロギストン説 phlogiston theory

Thus “preview” is a countable noun, “blended whiskey” may be either countable or uncountable, and “phlogiston theory” is normally uncountable.

But on the same two-page spread are the following entries:

フレンチアーチ French arch
[Should be “a French arch.”]
ジャクージ Jacuzzi
[in the entry for 風呂. Should be “a Jacuzzi”; note the misspelling, too.]
フロアリミット 【商業】 (小切手・カードの) floor limit
[Should be “a floor limit.”]
プロシージャ 【コンピュータ】 procedure

[Should be “a procedure” or “(a) procedure.”]

I also ran into a number of article and singular/plural mistakes. For example:

主イデアル 【数学】 the principal ideal
[Should be “a principal ideal.”
Principal ideals are not unique.]

A few lines earlier on the same page:

樹医 a tree surgeon who cares for famous or ancient tree
[Should be “trees,” and “or” should be “and.”]

Examples

Overall, the English translations of the example sentences are natural, idiomatic English and show the input of native English speakers. But in just an hour or so of browsing I spotted many problems, including unnatural English and English translations that do not correspond to the Japanese. In the following examples, the headword is shown in color.

パートを時給800円で雇う hire a part-timer by 800-yen-an-hour payment

[“...for 800 yen an hour” would be much more idiomatic.]

うちの息子はインターネットでエッチなホームページばかり見ている

My son just uses the Internet to log into the porno homepage.

[“log into” isn't quite right, “porno” is less common than “porn” or “pornographic,” the definite singular “the ... homepage” is wrong, and “Web sites” would be better than “homepage.”]

授業なんかサボって、映画に行こうよ Let's cut classes, and go watch that movie instead.

[Why “that” movie? “Let's cut classes and go see a movie instead” would be better.]

ロックの世界にジャンルをもたらした It has created a genre in the world of rock music.

[Too literal. Try “It has created a new style of rock music” instead.)

首位を譲る give up one’s first place
[“one’s” should be deleted.]

手の爪が伸びているわね Your fingernails are getting long, aren’t you?
[Should be “aren’t they,” at least in my dialect of English.]

新聞記者は続々首相官邸に詰めかけた Reporters flocked to the premier’s official residence.

[Shouldn’t that be “Newspaper reporters...”?]

Advertising

Even the entries that Sanseido is using to advertise the dictionary are not very good. Under the headline 「現代社会のあらゆる分野から幅広く収録」, the おび of the copy I bought lists the following 18 examples: 構造改革, カミングアウト, ジェンダー, 地ビール, 降順, 着信音, デフレスパイラル, ワークシェアリング, 画像圧縮, 全角, 半角, 添付ファイル, 文字化け, ルーター, ペイオフ, シアトルマリナーズ, シカゴブルズ, and エンロン. Checking each of these entries, I noticed the following problems:

構造改革 structural reform 《of a political party》

[“structural reform” should be “(a) structural reform,” as the term is used as both a countable and an uncountable noun. And while there is nothing wrong with the example collocation 《of a political party》, I think that 《of the government》 or 《of the economy》 would be more appropriate if this entry is supposed to represent how the term is used in Japan today.]

カミングアウト a coming-out
[Should be “coming-out,” “(a) coming-out,” or “one’s coming-out.” I would check a corpus or the Web before deciding which to choose, but I doubt that the countable-only usage is the most common.]

降順 a descending order
[Should be “descending order” or “(a) descending order.”]

着信音 (携帯電話の) a ringer [ring] tone of a cell phone

[Not wrong, but the one-word spelling “ringtone” is probably the most common now. The entry for 携帯電話 is “a portable telephone; a cell [cellular] phone”; it would have been nice if it had included “a mobile (phone),” which seems to be the most common term outside North America.]

デフレスパイラル the deflationary spiral

[Should be “a deflationary spiral.”]

全角 【印刷】 an em ▲全角の em

半角 【印刷】 an en; an en quad ▲半角の 【印刷】 en. [複合] 半角数 【印刷】 ennage/半角ダッシュ 【印刷】 an en dash/半角文字 half point characters

[If we assume that 全角 and 半角 are terms that describe Japanese fonts, then these entries are completely wrong. The usual terms are “full-width” and “half-width.” “em” and “en” describe Roman fonts, not Japanese fonts. And I have no idea where the term “half point characters” came from.]

添付ファイル 【コンピュータ】 an attachment (file) | ?ファイルを開く open an attachment

[Not bad, but “an attached file; an attachment” would be better.]

文字化け 【コンピュータ】 garbling (of text); an illegal character; garbled characters; (文字化けした文書) a garbled text

[Again not bad, but the word “corrupted” is used more often than “garbled.”]

ペイオフ (預金の払い戻し) a payoff
[This is completely wrong. ペイオフ does not mean 預金の払い戻し in Japanese and it certainly does not mean “payoff” in English.]

Thus, of the 18 entries that Sanseido is plugging for this dictionary, 10 have problems and several are fatally flawed.

Conclusion

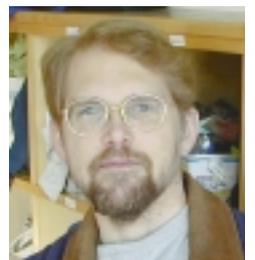
Needless to say, I am disappointed with this dictionary. While it does contain many useful entries and examples, the padding with foreign proper nouns and other words taken from its English-Japanese predecessor is unnecessary and misleading. The mediocre coverage of problematic words suggests that not much effort was made to improve the definitions over previous dictionaries. And there are many more errors than one should expect even in the first printing of a new dictionary. Over time, readers may find that the *Grand Concise Japanese-English Dictionary* is superior in some ways to other Japanese-English dictionaries, but it is already clear that it is not nearly as good as it should be.

Written June 16, 2002. Evaluation of おび words added June 17, 2002.

Editor’s note: This article, published with permission from the author, is available on his Website at www.gally.net. I found the portion of the site he devotes to translation—<http://www.gally.net/translation/index.htm>—to be particularly informative.

Tom Gally grew up in Pasadena, California.

Aside from his main job as a freelance Japanese-English translator, he has also written a couple of Japanese language textbooks and helped with the editing of several bilingual dictionaries. He lives in Yokohama with his wife and daughters.



Changes of Address

Jon Johanning // jjohanning@igc.org
119 W. Baltimore Ave., Apt 8-B, Lansdowne, PA 19050
(610) 259-6704 (voice/fax)

Have you moved? Please email Ben Tompkins at ben@j-translate.com if you would like your updated contact information listed in the next issue of the *JLD Times*. Also, be sure to update your information in the ATA’s Translation Services Directory.

EMAIL SCANNER

From Glosspost

Date: Mon, 24 Jun 2002 14:00:12 +1200

From: Peter Tuffley
<ptuffley@XTRA.CO.NZ>

Subject: URL JA>JA Place Name Readings

url: <http://yuujirou.inac.co.jp/>
lang: JA>JA

kwd: Japanese place names, kanji-kana

src: Japanese Post Office

cmt: Requires Japanese language software and knowledge of or access to at least some standard readings of kanji used in place names (which will not necessarily be kanji in common use), so as to input the appropriate kanji.

An outline knowledge of Japanese geography (e.g. knowing the names and locations of the 47 Japanese prefectures) will be useful, and ability to recognize the *kanji* forms of their names is vital, as the first step in the search is to select the appropriate prefecture.

Although its main purpose is to enable the user to find the correct postcode when addressing a letter, parcel etc., this online version of the hardcopy *Postal Guide* sold at Japanese post offices is an invaluable source of phonetic readings (in *hiragana*) for the *kanji* representations of many place names throughout Japan—particularly useful when the client is not directly accessible or (as is not uncommon) does not know the correct readings of addresses in the documents you are translating.

The reorganization of postcodes in the late 1990s has made this a much more refined search tool than before, since many more small localities now have their own distinguishing postcode, so that, when searching for a particular sub-district within a given ward in a given city, one less frequently comes up against the brick wall “localities not listed above have the code XXX-XXXX.”

Peter Tuffley
e-mail ptuffley@xtra.co.nz

Date: Fri, 19 Jul 2002 23:52:05 +0200
From: “Ute Bartz”
<utebartz@gmx.de>
Subject: URL EN>EN Biotech

url: <http://biotech.icmb.utexas.edu/search/dict-search.html>
lang: EN>EN
kwd: biotechnology, Life Science, biochemistry, biotechnology, botany, cell biology, genetics, medically—and biotechnologically—relevant organisms: bacteria, worms, fungi, plants

From Honyaku

Date: Tue, 25 Jun 2002 00:17:59 +0930
From: “Carol Lawson”
<Carol.Lawson@adelaide.edu.au>
Subject: Nuclear Power Glossary

Dear Members,

It's not my cup of tea but for those who work in pro or anti nuclear power fields this J-E Citizen's Nuclear Information Centre glossary, updated to March 2002, could be a find.

<http://www.cnic.or.jp/data/waei511.txt>

Note also the bizarre coinage of ‘copy-left’ (a document not subject to copyright).

Regards

Carol Lawson

Editor's note: This is the most comprehensive free J>E glossary of nuclear terms I have seen. Consider downloading it onto your hard drive or incorporating it into your dictionary server, no matter what your specialty, for later reference.

Date: Fri, 28 Jun 2002 13:29:54 +0900
From: Richard Sadowsky <sadowsky@sannet.ne.jp>
Subject: Google Glossary

At the moment for English only, but if you want to look up unfamiliar terminology, check out this new development from the Google labs:

<http://labs.google.com/glossary>

Richard Sadowsky sadowsky@sannet.ne.jp
Awajishima, Japan

From JLD List

Dear JLDers

I received the following post this morning. I know that this will probably not be of direct interest to you, but perhaps you could forward it to schools, individuals, or other organizations that would be interested.

Best regards,

Gerry Gooding
Huntington Beach, California

----- Original Message -----

From:

<tamaki1_yugawa@hq.pref.shizuoka.jp>
To: <atj@colorado.edu>; <najas@us-japan.org>; <jusfc@jusfc.gov>; <gooding@ieee.org>

Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2002 5:03 PM

Subject: Shizuoka International Translation Competition

To whom it may concern,

Re: Help advertise Shizuoka International Translation Competition.

This mail is to ask you kindly advertise our translation competition using your web page or your newsletter if there is one. Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan, is accepting translations of designated Japanese literary works. This competition is held to encourage the appreciation of Japanese literature around the world and promote international understanding. The recipients of the Grand Prize will be invited to study in Japan for one year to enhance their translation skills and knowledge of Japanese culture.

We will send a package including the designated Japanese literary works for translation upon request by email or fax.

Outline of the 4th Shizuoka International Translation Competition

Designated Literature Works to be trans-

lated:

Fiction

Bocho, by Kiyoko Murata

Oboreru, by Hiromi Kawakami

Ganka no Gemu, by Yasuhisa Ebisawa

Criticism

Karyu Shosetsuron Noto, by Saiichi Maruya

Janarizumu, by Tatsuo Hayashi

Utsukushii Kotoba towa, by Noriko Ibaragi

Deadline: All translations must be received by December 16, 2002.

Target Language: Select either English or Korean.

Awards: There will be two sets of awards, for translation into English and into Korean

Grand Prize: 1,000,000 Japanese yen and a grant to study in Japan for one year.

Qualifications: Applications from persons of all nationalities and ages are welcome, with the following exceptions:

Persons who have had a translation published may not apply.

Joint translations (works translated by two or more persons) may not be entered.

Secretariat of Shizuoka International

Translation Competition

c/o Culture Division, Shizuoka Prefectural Board of Education
9-6, Ohtemachi, Shizuoka-shi,
Japan 420-8601

TEL +81-54-221-3109

FAX +81-54-250-2784

Email shizuoka@po.sphere.ne.jp

http://www1.sphere.ne.jp/shizuoka

From JAT List

Date: Tue, 16 Jul 2002 20:47:23 +0900

From: Lise Translation

<patent@lise.jp>

Subject: JAT Translation as a Business SIG Formed

JAT has recently approved the formation of a JAT SIG (special interest group) with a focus on the business aspects of pursuing a career in translation. As part of our new SIG, a mailing list has been created.

Some appropriate topics appropriate for this list include:

Identifying clients,

The translation market,

Selling to (and keeping) clients,

Rates,

Quotations, billing, and other paperwork,

Forming a company,

and other topics not listed but related to the business aspects of being a translator (or interpreter).

To join the list, which is called jat-trans-business, from Yahoo!, visit <http://asia.groups.yahoo.com/group/jat-transbusiness/>.

To join the list via e-mail, send a blank e-mail message to jat-transbusiness-subscribe@yahoo.com.

After membership approval (it is a JAT members-only list), the list will operate much like JAT-LIST, except for the focus on the business aspects of our profession.

IMPORTANT: If you are joining the list from an e-mail address that is different from the one you listed for yourself in the JAT Directory, please send me a notice of this joining at patent@lise.jp, as it might be difficult to match you with your Directory entry without this information.

Bill Lise

Moderator

JAT Translation as a Business SIG

Administrative Office Of The United States Courts Federal Court Interpreter Program

Federal Court Interpreter Information Sheet

The Court Interpreters Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1827, requires the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to prescribe, determine, and certify the qualifications of persons who serve as certified interpreters in federal courts when the Director considers such certification to be merited for either persons who are hearing impaired (whether or not they also are speech impaired) or persons who speak only or primarily a language other than English. The use of competent federal court interpreters in proceedings involving speakers of languages other than English is critical to ensure that justice

is carried out fairly for defendants and other stakeholders.

The professional knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a federal court interpreter are highly complex. The interpreter must be not only highly proficient in both English and the foreign language but also impartial. Most important, an interpreter must be able to accurately and idiomatically render the message from the source language into the receptor language without any additions, omissions or other misleading factors that in any way alter the intended meaning of the message from the source language speaker. Communication in

courtroom proceedings may be more complex than that in other settings or in everyday life. For example, the parties involved may use specialized and legal terminology, formal and informal registers, dialect and jargon, varieties in language, and nuances of meaning. The interpreter must be equally adept at simultaneous interpretation, which is the most frequent form of interpretation used in the courtroom, and in consecutive interpretation and sight translation. The interpreter must possess excellent public speaking skills, including appropriate delivery and poise, and exude the highest professional standards for courtroom

demeanor and professional conduct. The constant interplay of all these factors in the courtroom makes the interpreter's task exceptionally difficult.

The single greatest operational requirement in the federal courts is for Spanish-language interpreters. However, there is also a need for interpreters in other languages, including Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, and Foochow), Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, and Arabic. The need for specific language interpreters is determined by the local district courts and not by the Administrative Office. In accordance with the Court Interpreters Act, however, the Administrative Office prescribes the standards and guidelines for selecting and using interpreters in federal court proceedings.

The use of competent federal court interpreters in proceedings involving speakers of languages other than English is critical to ensure that justice is carried out fairly for defendants and other stakeholders.

certification examination is administered in two phases and includes written and oral tests that, among other things, measure a candidate's ability to accurately perform simultaneous as well as consecutive interpretation and sight translations similar to those encountered in the federal courts.

In languages other than Spanish, Navajo and Haitian-Creole, interpreters are designated as "professionally qualified" or "language skilled." "Professionally qualified" interpreters. There are two ways in which one can be designated as "professionally qualified." An individual with previous employment as a conference or seminar interpreter with any United States agency

or with the United Nations or a similar entity may be deemed "professionally qualified" if the condition for employment includes successfully passing an interpreter examination. Another way to be deemed "professionally qualified" is to be a member in good standing in a professional interpreter association that requires a minimum of 50 hours of conference interpreting experience in the language(s) of expertise and the sponsorship of three active members of the same association who have been members for at least two years and whose language(s) are the same as the applicant's,

and who will attest to having witnessed the applicant's performance and to the accuracy of the statements on the application. Individuals who can demonstrate to the local court that they are eligible in either of these two ways can be classified as "professionally qualified."

"Language-skilled" interpreters. Interpreters who are not certified (Spanish, Navajo, or Haitian-Creole) or considered "professionally qualified," as described above, but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court their ability to interpret effectively from the foreign language into English and vice versa in court proceedings, can be classified as "language skilled" interpreters.

Certified and "professionally qualified" interpreters are paid at a higher rate than "language-skilled" interpreters.

Individuals who are interested in becoming federal court interpreters in Spanish, Navajo or Haitian-Creole must successfully pass the federal court interpreter test battery. For other languages, individuals may contact local federal courts to determine if that court has a need for the language of expertise. To be considered as a "professionally qualified" interpreter, an individual must submit a resume to the court, detailing education, training experience, current telephone number and mailing address, and when applicable, membership accreditations as described above. The local federal court will determine on a case-by-case basis whether the prospective interpreter is either "professionally qualified" or "language skilled."

JLD Membership Total Breaks 500

Japanese Language division Membership By Year

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2001	370	382	433	450	462	469	480	486	496	509	520	—
2002	379	460	481	499	512	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Reserve Your Spot at the 2002 JLD Dinner at the ATA Conference in Atlanta



If you have attended earlier ATA conferences, you know the JLD Dinner provides a great opportunity for JLD members to interact over delicious food. This year, the Dinner will be held at Atlanta's Pacific Rim Bistro. For \$25, inclusive of gratuities, attendees will enjoy:

- * Vietnamese spring rolls
- * Chicken with fresh asparagus in black bean sauce
- * Wanchi shrimp
- * Pad Thai noodles
- * Grilled Atlantic salmon in banana leaf
- * Seoul BBQ beef
- * Green tea ice cream

Drinks are not included in the above total. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 8. As space is limited, you must send \$25 by October 15 to reserve a spot. Include an extra \$25 for each accompanying family member or friend. A receipt will be provided at the dinner. Checks will be cashed on October 31. All cancellations must be received by October 30.

Please complete the following reservation form and send a check, made payable to "Benjamin Tompkins," to the address listed below.

See the restaurant's website, www.pacificrimbistro.com, for more information. Direct general questions to Benjamin Tompkins, your JLD Secretary-Treasurer, at ben@j-translate.com.

キリトリ線

2002 JLD Dinner Reservation Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Names of others who will accompany you: _____

Complete this form and send a check, made payable to "Benjamin Tompkins," to 5416 Brookside Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64112, USA. The cost is \$25 per attendee. Payment must be received by October 15 to reserve a spot. Direct general questions to ben@j-translate.com.