

Some Observations on Particles and Suffixes in Japanese Patent Specifications

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**November 9 - 12
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By Craig McGinty

Introduction

Translating Japanese patent specifications can be a strange beast indeed. For starters, inventors can devise new terms to describe their inventions, to the extent that such terms can be understood by reading the patent specification. Although the same is true of patent specifications originating in the U.S. and elsewhere, Japanese patent specifications can contain *kanji* compounds where several different ideas are compressed into a single string of four, five, or even eight to ten characters, and where that string is used as the name of a particular element for every occurrence of that element.

And then there are the claims. A claim must be a single sentence, and it is not uncommon for an independent claim to be a page or more in length. If the claim is written in the conventionally accepted format of "a method (or an apparatus) comprising: A; B; C; and D," then reading through the claim usually poses no great challenge. But if the claim is written in a stream-of-consciousness fashion where the constituent elements of the invention are not recited in the conventionally accepted format, then it can become difficult to determine what the constituent elements of the invention are.

And then there are those peculiar features unique to the Japanese language, such as the lack of distinction between singular and plural nouns, the lack of definite and indefinite articles, the lack of the future tense, and the rampant omission of subjects and direct objects.

This is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Sometimes it is the more carefully written sentences that can frustrate the translator. A patent specification should be written in such a manner that it can be understood by a person with "average skill in the art" to which the invention pertains. But this is not always the case.

The purpose of this article is to illustrate some unusual aspects of particle and suffix usage in Japanese patent specifications using specific examples. Although the focus is on patent translation, not all of the examples discussed below are exclusive to patent translation. The examples have been drawn from published patent specifications and other documents viewable online, or else are examples I have created based on actual expressions.

I. Particles

Particles are in many ways the nuts and bolts of Japanese. Understanding how particles function is crucial to

understanding how a passage in a given document should be translated. But sometimes the meaning of a particle can only be grasped by moving beyond what is written and properly understanding the context in which the particle is being used.

A. の

As noted in practically any introductory level textbook on Japanese, の is a possessive particle indicating a relationship where that which follows の in some sense belongs to that which precedes の . When translated into English, の can mean “of” (as in 私 の 友達 , or “a friend of mine”), “in” (as in 小説 の 登場人物 , or “a character in a novel”), “with” (as in 長い髪 の 少女 , or “a girl with long hair”), “at” (as in コロンビア大学 の 学生 , or “a student at Columbia University”), “on” (as in 壁 の 絵 , or “a picture on a wall”), and literally “belonging to” (as in 彼の財布 , or “his wallet”). の can also function as a substitute for が in a noun modifier (as in 内部の破壊されたビル , or “a building whose interior has been destroyed”). But sometimes there is ambiguity in the relationship between the terms preceding and following の .

Take the phrase 装置の取り付け面 , for example. Translated literally, the phrase would read “the attachment surface of the device.” However, does this mean a surface on the device to which another element is, or is to be, attached (as in 装置が有する面であって部材がその面に取り付けられている), or a surface on another element to which the device is, or is to be, attached (as in 部材が有する面であって装置がその面に取り付けられている)? Depending on the context, the phrase can actually mean both, and did in two different documents I encountered. In one case, the phrase meant a surface on the device to which another element was to be attached. In

the other case, the phrase was used as shorthand for 装置が取り付けられた面 . In both cases, it was the drawings that provided the answer.

Similarly, a phrase such as 装置の位置 can be ambiguous, because it can mean the position of a device, the position of a given element *within* the device (as in 部材の装置内の位置), or the position of a given element *on* the device (as in 部材の装置上の位置). The latter two meanings can be clarified by using alternate phrases like 装置内の位置 or 装置上の位置 , as in the parenthetical examples, but sometimes the phrase is simply left as 部材の装置の位置 .

Or consider the phrases スプールの巻き取り and テープの巻き取り . The term 巻き取り is used to describe, for example, the winding or taking-up of tape around a reel or spool. Translated literally, the phrases スプールの巻き取り and テープの巻き取り would read “the taking-up of the spool” and “the taking-up of the tape.” Even though the grammatical structures of these phrases are

identical, it would be erroneous to translate スプールの巻き取り as “the taking-up of the spool,” because it is clearly the tape that is wound or taken up around the spool. The phrase スプールの巻き取り describes the action of the spool taking up the tape (i.e., “the taking-up [of the tape] by the spool”), with the recipient of the action omitted, so the emphasis here is on the actor of 巻き取り . The phrase テープの巻き取り describes the action of the tape being taken up by the spool, so the emphasis here is on the recipient of 巻き取り .

B. へ

The particle へ is used in association with a verb to describe the direction of the action contained in the verb. The direction is always *toward* something; thus, へ should function in only one direction. But sometimes

Japanese patent specifications contain phrases such as 部材の装置への着脱 , 部材が装置へ着脱可能に設けられている , and 記録媒体への情報記録・再生 . In each instance, へ is used to describe the direction of an action, when it is actually two actions in mutually opposite directions that are being described. The term 着脱 , for example, can describe the attachment of one element *to* another element and the detachment of the one element *from* the other element. However, it would be unthinkable to translate such phrases into English as “the attachment/detachment of the member *to* the device” or “the recording/playback of information *to* the recording medium,” precisely because there are two actions described whose directions are mutually opposite.

C. を and が

The particle を indicates the direct recipient of an action, whereas the particle が , when combined with a passive verb, indicates the passive recipient of an action. Thus, in a phrase such as りんごを食べた人 , the particle を is associated with volition on the part of the actor, which in this case is a person who ate an apple. Similarly, in a phrase such as 記録媒体に情報を記録する記録装置 , a recording apparatus is described as recording information in/onto a recording medium, so the verb 記録する is an action expressly executed by the 記録装置 . But in a phrase such as 雪が風で吹き飛ばされた , conscious intent is absent because the snow was passively blown by the wind.

This distinction, with respect to intent, between active and passive constructions rarely holds true when translating Japanese patent specifications. Take the phrases 孔を形成した部材 and 孔が形成された部材 , for example. Translated literally (and assuming that the hole and the member are singular), the former phrase would read “the member that formed the hole,” and the latter phrase would read “the member in which the hole is formed.” Depending on the context, these might be perfectly

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**Newsletter of the
Japanese Language
Division of the
American Translators
Association**

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From the Administrator

Ken Wagner



This is my last administrator's column in the *JLD Times*. It's time to wax philosophic.

I've been translating for money for almost twenty years. For the first ten years or so, I was consumed with the idea of translation and would stay up half the night talking about translation whenever I got together with other translators. (Well, when I got together with other J ⇌ E translators.) I still like translation and get pretty excited talking about it—until the conversation drifts to something else.

I'm a freelancer, and we all know that freelance translation is a solitary life. At least, most freelancers seldom come into contact with other translators. During my stint as JLD administrator, I was able to indulge my love of the practice and study of translation in the company of other translators. Assistant Administrator Carl Sullivan, Secretary-Treasurer Rika Mitrik, *JLD Times* Editor Irith Bloom, and myself were able to work side-by-side with a considerable number of volunteers to 1) publish this newsletter, 2) assemble a new type of conference program featuring intermediate and advanced presentations, and 3) reach out to JAT and IJET. It's all about community and people you have something in common with.

So, as translators and interpreters, let's stay together. Stay in the JLD, join JAT, and be active on the Honyaku mailing list (or at least lurk on it as I do). Join the Payment Practices and TCR (Translator Client Review) mailing lists to keep watch on those non-payers. We can indulge our enthusiasm for translation, commiserate, and look out for one another.

* * * * *

Let me thank the volunteers from the last two years. They really made everything work:

2004 Conference Planning Committee: *Yoshiko Okano Guy, Aaron Ernst, Craig McGinty*

2004 Participants in the campaign to fund IJET: *Cliff Bender, Ann MacFarlane, Izumi Suzuki, Ben Tompkins*

2005 Conference Planning Committee: *Rob Albon, Keiko Best, Hiromi Fujii, Tetu Hirai*

2005 IJET-16 Recruiter of "expert" speaker line-up: *Jim Davis*

2005 Nominating Committee: *Jon Johanning, Shizuka Otake*

2005 JLD Webmistress: *Sue Nakano*

acceptable translations. But frequently such phrases are used to mean exactly the same thing, so that 孔を形成した部材 actually means “the member in which the hole is formed.” In other words, the difference is not one of semantics but of writing style. In few other languages would the phrases 孔を形成した部材, 孔が形成された部材, and 孔が形成されている部材 be able to mean the same thing, as they sometimes can in Japanese.

It might be argued that volition on the part of an omitted actor is implied by the use of を in 孔を形成した部材 (e.g., “the member in which we [the inventors] formed the hole”), but unless one is talking about the “Examples” section sometimes appearing after the “Detailed Description of the Invention” section, indicating the deliberate action of the inventors through the active voice is generally avoided in the body of a patent specification.

To further illustrate this problem, Japanese claims sometimes contain active verbs that are not intended to be understood literally. Take the recitation 前記部材に突起を設けたことを特徴とする請求項1に記載の装置, which one might encounter in a dependent claim. The active voice is used to describe a protrusion being disposed on the member, but the claim could just as easily have been written to recite 前記部材に突起が設けられた, or for that matter even 前記部材に突起を設けている or 前記部材に突起が設けられている. Again, the difference is not one of semantics but of writing style.

II. Suffixes

By suffix, I mean a single character that does not stand by itself but is attached to a root to form a new expression. Notorious examples of these in the world of Japanese patent translation include 化 and 性.

A. 化

The suffix 化 is used to describe the changing or making of something into something else, and is sometimes roughly equivalent to the English “-ize” or “-ization.” For example, the term 標準化 can be smoothly translated as

“standardization.” Yet sometimes 化 is used less as a conventional suffix and more as a kind of shorthand for a larger expression. In published patent specifications and other documents viewable online, one can find compounds such as 高コスト化, 高速化, 高機能化, 高密度化, 高精細化, 低消費電力化, 軽量化, 大画面化, 大容量化, 大型化, 小型化, 小型軽量化, 小型薄型化, and 多ピン化. And sometimes these compounds are combined together, as in 大容量化・高速化 in the case of information technology. Not all of these can be translated as smoothly as 標準化, because they are less terms than they are compressions of larger expressions.

Take the phrases 装置の高コスト化 and 情報の高速化, for example. The former phrase describes an increase in the cost of a particular apparatus. Sometimes, one of the effects of a new invention is a reduction in the cost of something that had previously been relatively expensive to manufacture, or the introduction of a better material or element that does not lead to an increase in the manufacturing cost. The phrase 装置の高コスト化 is used as shorthand for 装置の COST の増加. So an expression like 装置の高コスト化を防止することができる means essentially the same thing as 装置の COST の増加を防止することができる, and can be translated as “the (manufacturing) cost of the apparatus can be prevented from increasing.”

Similarly, the latter phrase, 情報の高速化, compresses a larger concept. Information itself does not really have a speed; rather, actions (e.g., processing, transmission) associated with information have a speed, and it is this speed (of the processing or transmission) that is referred to by 高速化. The problem is determining what the author intended. In a sentence such as 情報の高速化が進んでいる, it might be the speed at which information is transmitted that is

increasing, or the speed at which information is processed, or both. Ultimately, context must be used to interpret what the author meant.

There is a discernible pattern among many of the compounds ending in 化. As is evident in expressions such as 大容量化, 小型化, 高コスト化, and 低消費電力化, characters indicating size or an increase or reduction (e.g., 大, 小, 高, 低) are used as prefixes in combination with the suffix 化 to indicate a desirable (or undesirable, in the case of 高コスト化) effect or trend relating to the term sandwiched between the prefix and 化. For example, the phrase 低消費電力化を図ることができる means essentially the same thing as 消費電力を減らすことができる, which is a desirable effect for an invention to have. The characters 低 and 化, which respectively act as a prefix and a suffix for 消費電力, serve to relay the concept of reducing power consumption in this case.

B. 性

Of the numerous suffixes one encounters in Japanese patent specifications, perhaps my least favorite (next to 化) is 性. This suffix indicates the nature or character of the root to which it is attached. For example, the term 可塑性 can be translated as “plasticity,” the term 一般性 can be translated as “commonality” or “universality,” the term 不確実性 can be translated as “uncertainty,” and the term 信頼性 can be translated as “reliability” or “credibility.” Yet sometimes the suffix 性 is attached to unusual root nouns.

Take the term ゲーム性, for example, which can occur in a phrase such as ゲーム性が高い. What exactly does this mean? Even if 性 can be thought of as 性質 or 本質性 and ゲーム性 can be thought of as ゲームとしての性質 or ゲームとしての本質性, the question ゲームの本質とは何ぞや still arises, which is exactly

Understanding how particles function is crucial to understanding how a passage in a given document should be translated.

the sentiment I discovered on a couple of Japanese websites. It seems the term is used in video game magazines and among video game consumers to describe the unique appeal, interest factor, or enjoyableness of a particular game. Ideally, context should provide the translator with some idea of how such a problematic term might be translated, but sometimes not much of a context is provided, and one must look to other documents for clues regarding the potential meaning(s) of the term.

C. 装置, 処理, 動作

These are probably the most common terms encountered in Japanese patent specifications relating to mechanical devices and computer programs. None of them is difficult to understand, but it is interesting to note that they can function similarly to suffixes. For example, take the terms 印刷装置, 印刷処理, and 印刷動作. The 装置 at the end of 印刷装置 indicates that what is associated with 印刷 is a tangible object (i.e., a printing apparatus or a printer), whereas the 処理 and 動作 at the end of 印刷処理 and 印刷動作 indicate that what

is associated with 印刷 is an action or operation (i.e., printing or a printing operation).

Similarly, the term シュレッダ装置 describes a shredder (an object) while the term シュレッダ処理 describes shredding (an action). It would be unnatural to translate シュレッダ処理 literally as “shredder processing.” 装置 and 処理 are acting as suffixes to distinguish the device from the action and vice-versa.

The point here is that it can sometimes help to think of familiar terms in different ways, so that as translators we do not become locked into word-for-word correspondences. The term 処理 can mean “processing,” but it does not follow that 処理 should always be literally translated as “processing” when it is attached to another compound. Many printers in Japan, for example, have a button on the operation panel labeled 印刷処理 or プリント処理, but I doubt many professional translators would want to translate this as “printing processing” or “print processing,” instead of simply “print.” The temptation to translate プ

リント処理 as “print processing” in a patent specification where it is intended to mean “printing” can also lead to some confusion as to whether the term refers to the processing of photographic prints.

Conclusion

Particles and suffixes can sometimes be used in ambiguous or unusual ways in Japanese patent specifications. The key to understanding them comes not only from context but also from recognizing recurrent patterns of use. Although the examples above have been drawn from the field of patent translation, hopefully translators in other fields will also find them interesting and useful.

Thanks to Irith Bloom, Izumi Suzuki, and Ben Tompkins for their editing contributions.



Craig McGinty has been involved in patent translation for over five years. He lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he works as a freelance translator.

JLD Sessions at the 46th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association

The JLD has a terrific lineup of sessions scheduled for the upcoming ATA conference in Seattle, including the usual complement of Japanese-focused sessions and two Science and Technology sessions from speakers who were recruited by the JLD. Descriptions of these sessions are provided below.

J-1: Such a Deal! Translating Contracts from Japanese to English

Ray Roman

Thursday, 1:45 pm-3:15 pm (All Levels)

The contract may be the legal document that is most frequently translated between Japanese and English. A typical contract may contain archaic

JLD Series

The following speakers were recruited by the Japanese Language Division as part of a series of expert speakers with professional degrees and/or extensive expertise in a particular subject field. With the exception of J-3, these expert presentations specifically target J ⇔ E practitioners.

- *Ray Roman, J-1: Such a Deal! Translating Contracts from Japanese to English*
- *Martha A. Feldman, J-3: Translation Techniques for Clinical Study Tools*
- *Tetu Hirai, J-7: Software Engineering Document Translation*
- *Kayoko Takeda, J-8: Professional Conduct in Working as/with a Check Interpreter in Legal Settings*
- *Tom Novak, ST-3: Semiconductor Manufacturing*
- *Ken Sakai, ST-4: Understanding the Semiconductor Industry and Its Supply Chain Structure*

phrases, arcane terminology, and irksome references to nado, nado! What is it all about, and how should the translator grapple with legalese? Participants will discuss common trouble spots in contract translation and critique sample translations. Come prepared to roll your sleeves up and work through some common contract trouble spots.

Ray Roman was recruited by the Japanese Language Division as part of its series of subject-area expert speakers.

J-2: Japanese↔English Certification Workshop

Diane L. Howard, Connie Prener, Kyoko Saegusa, Izumi Suzuki, and Kendrick J. Wagner

Friday, 10:15 am-11:45 am (All Levels)

Presenting Languages: English and Japanese

This workshop will provide a brief overview of ATA's Certification Program, testing procedures, and grading standards. Participants will work through either a Japanese or English passage that is similar to the general passage on ATA's certification exam. Graders in ATA's certification program will lead the workshop groups and provide feedback on participants' translations. Information about the workshop passage will be posted on the mailings lists of ATA's Japanese Language Division as well as the Japanese Translators Association. Participants are encouraged to translate the passage before the workshop.

J-3: Translation Techniques for Clinical Study Tools

Martha A. Feldman, Invited Speaker of the Japanese Language Division, S. Lee Seaman, Steven M. Sherman, and Kendrick J. Wagner

Friday, 1:45 pm-3:15 pm (All Levels)

Presenting Languages: English and Japanese

Large parts of clinical study protocols are devoted to study tools, such as screening logs, randomization codes, drug accountability forms, patient study visit scheduling, and storage and shipment instructions for samples. English examples of text

discussing study tools are hard to find because they are mostly internal documents, and are not readily available on the Internet or in libraries. The speakers will present examples of discussions of study tools that have been used in actual clinical studies. Equivalent Japanese sources text will be also be presented. This session will be of interest to any medical translator working into English.

Martha A. Feldman was recruited by the Japanese Language Division as part of its series of subject-area expert speakers.

J-4: Japanese Language Division Annual Meeting

Kendrick J. Wagner

Friday, 3:30 pm-5:00 pm (All Levels)

New officers will be elected and the course for their new administration charted. All division members wishing to vote on matters concerning the JLD should attend.

J-5: In-house Translator or Interpreter-Is It for You?

Keiko K. Best and Atsuko Yamazaki

Saturday, 8:30 am-10:00 am (All Levels)

Presenting Languages: English and Japanese

People sometimes have the mistaken notion that an in-house translator/interpreter is less skilled and professional compared to a freelance translator/interpreter. The speakers, both of whom have over 10 years of experience as corporate in-house interpreters/translators, will discuss their day-to-day work and the pros and cons of being in-house. Working in-house is highly recommended not only for those who are relatively new in the field of translation, but also for those who want to find their own area of expertise.

J-6: U.S. Government Jobs for Language Professionals

Robert C. Albion

Saturday, 1:45 pm-2:30 pm (All Levels)

U.S. government job descriptions are difficult to understand and the application procedures are daunting. Everyone has a friend who was

referred and selected, but died of old age waiting for a security clearance. Worry no more. The insider knowledge provided here—online job searches, reading between the lines on job descriptions, resumes, interviews, background investigations, transportation agreements, surviving probation, and more—lets you apply online, interview by phone, and get \$50K+/year language-related government jobs, all without leaving home or even getting dressed. The benefits of federal employment are worth it. Bonus: U.S. government translator positions in Japan for Japanese citizens.

J-7: Software Engineering Document Translation

Tetu Hirai

Saturday, 2:30 pm-3:15 pm (All Levels)

This presentation will feature the translation of software engineering documents from Japanese into English. Sample Japanese sentences from software engineering documents and suggested English renderings will be given. The technical background associated with these sentences will be given in order to explain why the suggested renderings would be appropriate. Common mistakes translators make in translating software engineering documents will also be discussed.

Tetu Hirai was recruited by the Japanese Language Division as part of its series of subject-area expert speakers.

J-8: Professional Conduct in Working as/with a Check Interpreter in Legal Settings

Kayoko Takeda

Saturday, 3:30 pm-4:15 pm (Advanced)

Presenting Languages: English and Japanese

When interpreting for a Japanese witness in a deposition, trial, or other proceedings in litigation, there are usually interpreters who check the accuracy of your interpretation. Issues we occasionally encounter include disagreeing with the opposing interpreter on certain interpretations and the improper timing of corrections made

by the check interpreter. Unfamiliarity with professional protocol in this type of setting can also make interpreters feel uncomfortable. This interactive session will discuss best practice and professional conduct when working as or with check interpreters during litigation proceedings.

Kayoko Takeda was recruited by the Japanese Language Division as part of its series of subject-area expert speakers.

J-9: Technical Aspects of Interpreting at the Winter Olympics

Robert C. Albon

Saturday, 4:15 pm-5:00 pm (All Levels)

The speaker will share his experiences as an official Japanese interpreter at the 2002 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. He will focus on strategies for preparing for translation in widely varied but highly specialized fields such as winter sports, sports medicine, or local history and culture. He will also discuss ethical concerns of the Olympics and the Paralympics and the lighter side of life in the Olympic Village.

ST-3: Semiconductor Manufacturing

Tom Novak, Invited Speaker of the Japanese Language Division

Saturday, 10:15 am-11:00 am (All Levels)

The semiconductor industry generates a high volume of patents and, inevitably, litigations related to intellectual property, all of which require the services of translators/interpreters who are knowledgeable about the industry and technologies. This session will introduce translators to the field of semiconductor manufacturing. The speaker will cover exposure fundamentals, light, optics, exposure methods, and lithography equipment (called steppers). Participants will become acquainted with the terminology and commonly used acronyms, and receive a basic overview of the photolithographic process. The session is non-language-specific, so translators of all different languages will be welcome.

Tom Novak was recruited by the Japanese Language Division as part

of its series of subject-area expert speakers.

ST-4: Understanding the Semiconductor Industry and Its Supply Chain Structure

Ken Sakai

Saturday, 11:00 am-11:45 am (All Levels)

Semiconductors are a growing industry with a very broad base of various supporting industries. The key customers are semiconductor device manufacturing companies, but more importantly, the semiconductor materials and equipment industries are a large and significant industrial and business sector worldwide. This session provides an overview of the various semiconductor materials and equipment industries, and illustrates their supply chain relationship with semiconductor device manufacturing.

Ken Sakai was recruited by the Japanese Language Division as part of its series of subject-area expert speakers.



See What We've Got

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46th Annual Conference

of the American Translators Association

The Westin Seattle | Seattle, Washington | November 9-12, 2005

Don't miss this **opportunity to network**, meet newcomers and seasoned professionals, **market yourself and your skills, reunite with friends** and colleagues, **and have fun!**

Look for the **Conference Program and Registration Form** online at www.atanet.org/conf2005. Be sure to take advantage of special **Early-Bird rates**, available **until September 10**. **Join ATA** to register at the discounted ATA Member rate. For an application, contact ATA or **join online at www.atanet.org/membapp.htm**.

Japanese Language Division Candidates for Election 2005

The Nominating Committee of the Japanese Language Division is pleased to announce that the following Division members have been nominated as candidates in the upcoming election of officers:

Administrator: Mr. Carl Sullivan

Assistant Administrator: Mr. Richard Mott

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Mina Seat

Please take a few minutes to read the following statements from the candidates.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Mr. Carl Sullivan (masae@manti.com)

Candidate for Administrator

Bio

Hello/konnichi wa, fellow JLD members. Let me tell you a bit about myself, so you can know something about who is interested in serving as your administrator, and what he believes about his potential future role.

Like many of you, I have a background related to my target language (obviously, Japanese), and also to Korean. I was first exposed to Japan as a Mormon missionary (late 70s), and then studied/worked with Korean as a linguist in the military. I wound up obtaining undergraduate/graduate degrees involving those languages, and was involved in second language acquisition research for many years. I went on to become a businessperson and language school administrator in Japan. I returned to teach Japanese, Korean, and ESL at Snow College in Utah, where I have been teaching for 13 years now. During this whole period, I have remained in the Naval Reserves, where I now serve as a Commander working on special assignment relative to issues involving translation, language learning/instruction, and recruiting within the government. Throughout all of these years, I have continually wound up being involved in setting up language instructional programs.

My hobbies include mountain climbing, skiing, trail running, and log furniture making, among others. I served for a while as an emergency medical technician/wilderness medicine specialist, and have an interest in emergency medicine. I divorced and later remarried my wife Masae—we have ten kids between us (six teenagers). Yes, they keep us busy.

I joined ATA in 1994 at the Nashville conference. I attended this conference out of curiosity regarding the field and with interest as a foreign language educator. I came away with great friendships with JLD members, and a bit of a vision of what could be for me in the world of translation/

interpreting. Later, I served twice as conference chair, which helped me to make further contacts and friendships, and to gain more knowledge. I slowly began a part-time business and worked to develop my skills/knowledge base.

In 2000, Masae and I decided to launch a full-time translation business, which has been so wonderful for us. We love our lives as translators/interpreters. I regard joining ATA as one of the greatest decisions of my life; my membership in, and associations with, the JLD have been the key to all of this. I guess that serving the division as administrator is one way to pay back for what I have received.

Which brings me to my “platform”.

Platform

First, I believe that all of our past leaders have been outstanding. Don’t expect me to change the fundamentals that have established the great reputation of our division within ATA: strong, well organized, great/focused presentations (developed with input from division members), wonderful publications, solid certification exam committee, etc.

More recently, Administrator Ken Wagner has worked to strengthen the JLD’s connections to JAT, which I wholeheartedly support, and would work to strengthen even further. Ken has also displayed strong, mature leadership in working with the larger ATA as they evolve their own programs and practices—assisting our sponsoring institution, ATA, while maintaining the integrity/strength of the division itself. All of these efforts I believe we need to continue.

Here is where I would also like to focus:

1. I believe that the JLD should serve as a valuable business resource for Japanese-related translators and interpreters. To do so, it should:

- a. Strive to include presentations which are maximally effective and which provide specific tools that you can take home and put into practice that day to enhance your business/skills/success as an interpreter or translator.
- b. Seek to establish additional publications (like the immensely successful patent guide), group connections, etc. that enhance business skills/success.
- c. Promote excellence in the art and science of translation and interpreting, through focusing on this within presentations, publications, and the certification process.
- d. Seek to maximize certification as a resource, making it more relevant and being willing to challenge traditional assumptions—the “well, we’ve always done it that way”—to make the credential even more effective.
- e. Strive so that every JLD member feels like saying “I can’t imagine not being a member of this division. It is invaluable to my business and to me personally as an

interpreter and translator.”

- f. Effectively disseminate useful information on jobs, employment, education, professional development, etc. to members
 2. I believe that the division should extend a hand to newcomers—the budding interpreters/translators—and to those who might become so.
 - a. Strive to recognize newcomers, to make them feel welcome and establish a sort of informal mentoring process
 - b. Initiate a division-sponsored outreach to English/Japanese learning fields, as well as pertinent technical fields, encouraging language/technical studies, to spread the message of the value of our enterprise. Connect with the academic world.
 3. I believe the division should provide a social network for its members, many of whom work in relative isolation as freelancers for most of the year.
 - a. Provide enhanced social opportunities for conference attendees at other times.
 4. I believe we should work to maintain the integrity of the division as the Association itself grows and changes.
 - a. Ensure the strength and vitality of division-specific activities and programs.
 - b. Support the larger ATA and its ability to serve the needs of our members.
- I have an ear; please let me know your thoughts and how I can serve you. Thank you.

Mr. Richard Mott (rmmott@earthlink.net)
Candidate for Assistant Administrator

I am honored to accept the nomination for the position of Assistant Administrator of the Japan Language Division of the American Translators Association. I am looking forward to serving with Mr. Carl Sullivan and Mrs. Mina Seat for the next two years.

I started freelance translating from Japanese to English in 1996 while living in Japan, and today I specialize in technical subject matter chiefly in chemistry, engineering, and pharmaceuticals. Prior to becoming a translator, I worked for almost two decades in a variety of technical and business positions in several multinational corporations, including six years as a research engineer at an R&D technical center in Kobe, Japan. I joined ATA after moving back to the US a number of years ago. Currently I live in Golden, Colorado.

I look forward to meeting more of the JLD membership and to working with ATA to improve the image and understanding with the public at large of the important role skilled translators and interpreters play in our increasingly global society.

Mrs. Mina Seat (minaseat@comcast.net)
Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Thank you for nominating me to be the Secretary-Treasurer of the Japanese Language Division of ATA. I am excited to be able to serve in this position for the coming two years with Mr. Carl Sullivan and Mr. Richard Mott.

I was born in Japan and lived there until 2001, when I moved to the United States after I married my American husband. In Japan, I taught at different schools for almost ten years, including a four-year college as an English lecturer. I started working as a translator/interpreter for patent infringement litigation in the spring of 2001. I have been an ATA member since 2002 and have been expanding my personal and business experience. I have attended seminars and conferences and have always enjoyed meeting colleagues and learning more about translation work. I am looking forward to being a part of future conferences and know they will be fulfilling.

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES

Additional candidates may petition to be added to the ballot until October 3, 2005. The nomination of each additional candidate must be supported by a petition endorsed by 15 members of the Division. A petition form can be obtained from ATA Headquarters; contact Mary David at 703-683-6100.

You'll find a summary of officer duties online at http://www.americantranslators.org/divisions/Officer_Duties.pdf.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS:

October 3, 2005

PETITION AND WRITTEN ACCEPTANCE FROM CANDIDATE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO:

Ms. Shizuka Otake
JLD Nominating Committee Chair
c/o ATA Headquarters
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria, VA 22314

ELECTION PROCEDURE

In the case of an uncontested election, Division officers will be declared by acclamation. In the case of a contested election, balloting will be conducted by mail ballot.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

The newly elected Division officers will be announced at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Japanese Language Division in Seattle, Washington, during the ATA's 46th Annual Conference (November 9-12, 2005).

Please contact Mary David by email at mary@atanet.org if you have any questions about these procedures.