

Seminars at IJET-16

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This issue of the JLD Times focuses on the recent IJET-16 convention, which took place in Chicago between June 3 and 6, 2005. Special thanks are due to Richard Mott, who prepared the following summaries of the field-specific seminars that he attended on Friday and Monday of IJET-16 weekend.

FIELD-SPECIFIC SEMINAR— BIOMEDICAL TRANSLATION

Summary prepared by Richard Mott

The first of two field-specific seminars added to the IJET-16 agenda, a seminar devoted to the topic of Biomedical Translation, was hosted by Steve Sherman, MD and John Bukacek, on Friday, 3 June 2005, with presentations from several experts in various biomedical translation fields.

Biomedical Translation—An Overview

Presented by Jay Kilpatrick

The field of biomedical translation encompasses translation related to the basic biomedical sciences (such as biochemistry and immunology), clinical medicine and research, testing and manufacture of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and regulation of the pharmaceutical and medical device industries. Types of documents translated include toxicity studies, clinical trial protocols and reports, investigator brochures, patents, case reports, and official MHLW notifications.

Sources of biomedical translation work for translators include agencies and direct clients such as pharmaceutical companies and law firms. US pharmaceutical firms

tend to prefer to contract out work through agencies, while Japanese pharmaceutical firms in Japan seem more willing to work directly with individual translators. Interestingly, though one might think there would be a large demand for translation to support publication in journals, in fact, Japanese academic researchers almost always write in English directly themselves.

Jay Kilpatrick advocated a translation approach of Read Japanese text → Grasp the meaning → Write in natural English. To effectively do this requires first looking over the entire document including references and figure and table captions, which are often in English, reading whole sections at a time to gain a general understanding, reading in detail at the paragraph level, and then starting to translate at the sentence level.

The use of proper, current terminology is critical to maintaining satisfied clients. One important source of terms is from the work of ICH (International Conference on Harmonization). ICH is an ongoing effort between Japan, the US, and the EU to harmonize practices and procedures across its member regions in the development and regulation of new drugs. One current ICH focus is on developing a Common Technical Document for reporting data to regulatory agencies. Several seminar participants echoed the sentiment that ICH terminology is very important, and that use of proper ICH terminology in translations is key to securing repeat business. A good terminology resource is the web site for the National Institute of Health

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Sciences (NIHS, 国立医薬品食品衛生研究所) at <http://www.nihs.go.jp/dig/ich/ichindex.html>, which posts ICH guidelines in English along with Japanese translations.

Hints for Handling Terminology in Pharmaceutical Reports

Presented by John Stroman

An important question to ask before starting a translation in the pharmaceutical area is: *What is the phase of development?* Certain terms in Japanese map to different words in English depending on the phase of clinical development

Examples of Terms that Vary by Phase of Clinical Development

Term	Preclinical	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III/IV
試験	trial, study (cells: test)	trial, study	trial, study	trial, study
投与する	dose	administer	treat, administer	treat, administer
症例、例	animal	subject	patient, subject, case (statistics)	patient, subject, case (statistics)
治験薬 試験薬	test substance	study drug, investigational product*	study drug, investigational product	study drug, investigational product

*Investigational product is the preferred ICH term, but it includes placebos and comparative products.

In addition, documents produced in clinical studies are often written by multiple authors. As a result, the source text may be inconsistent in its use of a variety of nouns for medical conditions that are essentially synonymous, have inconsistent connecting words and phrases, show inconsistencies in sentence length, and have differences in tone across sections that on the surface seem to imply different levels of certainty or forcefulness.

Case Study Translation—Short but Not Always Quick

Presented by John Stroman

Translation of case studies presents a special type of challenge in biomedical translation. A case study is a short medical article in which physicians in clinical practice report on an unusual and unexpected experience in treating an individual patient. Do not assume that because

a case study in Japanese is short, it will only take a short time to translate. Often, considerable background research is needed for the non-specialist to understand the context, terminology, and abbreviations in the document. Generally, it is a good idea to expand many of the abbreviations used in the Japanese source document (such as abbreviations of common antibiotics) and to write complete sentences wherever possible. The tone in English case studies is less formal than in a report concerning a controlled experiment and is likely to assume the form of a narrative.

Japanese Pharmaceutical Affairs Law—An Ever-Evolving Lexicon

Presented by Douglas Havens

As the regulatory environment in Japan evolves, the terminology that translators of regulatory-related documents must be familiar with evolves as well. A number of recent revisions to laws by MHLW have resulted in new terms and preferred translations for the Japanese-to-English translator. While all the terminology covered in Doug Havens' presentation cannot be reproduced in this article, here are a few interesting examples of how medical language is changing.

Some examples of what are at first blush odd-looking terms have resulted from the expansion of over-the-counter type products into new distribution channels such as convenience stores. With each wave of new products being allowed into such distribution channels,

a new regulatory category seems to crop up:

医薬部外品 Quasi-drugs
新指定医薬部外品 Newly designated quasi-drugs
新範囲医薬部外品に該当するもの Drugs in the new range of quasi-drugs

In some cases, terms used in Japanese have changed, but the corresponding English has not. Translators should resist trying to reflect differing Japanese terminology in the accepted English terms. For example:

生物学的製剤 Biological products
生物由来製品 Biological products (probably a better fit than bioderived products)
医薬用具 Medical devices
医薬機器 Medical devices (not medical instruments)

Also, there is a trend that might be described as political correctness, often resulting from the actions of patient advocacy groups, that is leading to changes in the terminology used for certain medical conditions in Japanese media and websites. Examples include:

Schizophrenia 精神分裂病 → 統合失調症
Dementia 痴呆 → 認知症

Lastly, Doug Havens pointed out that the nature of health regulatory bodies in Japan is often that they circulate a new round of regulatory changes, wait for comments to come in, and then issue a series of revisions that address problems or complaints from industry, health care providers, and others. Consequently, many of the new terms in use today that resulted from recent regulatory changes may be outdated or superseded in the fairly near future.

MedDRA—Standardized Terms and Codings Used in Adverse Event Reporting

Presented by Josephine Howe

The acronym MedDRA stands for Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities. It was designed as a

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From the Administrator

Ken Wagner



Current goings-on in the Japanese Language Division: IJET-16 was just held in Chicago in early June, the division is searching for candidates to fill administrator positions for the term beginning this fall, and we are looking forward to the ATA conference in Seattle in November.

This year's IJET (International Japanese-English Translation Conference) was a spectacular four-day event that benefited from a combination of influences. In addition to the regular Saturday and Sunday sessions, organizer Ben Tompkins scheduled two half-day special interest seminars on Friday and Monday. A biomedical translation seminar on Friday featured presentations by translators Doug Havens, Jody Howe, Jay Kilpatrick, and John Stroman on Japanese regulatory information, the (un)availability of MEDdra for use by translators, medical translation theory, and special medical translation problems, respectively. A patent translation seminar on Monday featured presentations by translators Harold Abilock, Jon Johanning, and Warren Smith on translation quality processes, chemical translation problems, and high translation output techniques, respectively.

Five "expert" speakers—not necessarily translators—from industry and academia were sponsored with a \$3,000 grant from the JLD for IJET. They spoke on electronic circuitry, chemical instrumentation, automotive infotainment and telematics, magnetic resonance imaging, and computer security.

There has been a debate among people who plan conferences like IJET and the ATA conference about whether conference presentations should focus on training (e.g., bringing in outside experts who can provide specialty-area training for even highly experienced translators) or whether presentations should be given by fellow translators in a collegial fashion, providing a forum for exchange and participation among translator colleagues. With its line-up of outside specialty-area experts and an extended program of presentations by translator colleagues, IJET-16 provided both.

Back on the home front, a similar mix of presentations by specialty area experts and translator colleagues has been planned for this fall's ATA conference in Seattle. Hopefully, the IJET and ATA conferences this year will form a template for a new level of education in future conference programs.

Still on the home front, Assistant Administrator Carl Sullivan and the JLD nominating committee (Jon Johanning and Shizuka Otake) are searching for candidates to serve as division assistant administrator and secretary-treasurer. If you would like to be more involved in the translation community, volunteering for the JLD is a great way to do it.

dictionary of unified terms applicable to all phases of drug development and the health effects of devices. In the U.S., its use has been largely in the area of reporting adverse events, while in Europe it has been required for use in more aspects of the regulatory and approval process. How far the U.S. FDA will adopt MedDRA beyond adverse event reporting is a subject of some speculation, as there are competing systems being discussed for medical coding. For details about MedDRA, refer to the websites www.meddransso.com/NewWeb2003/faq/index.htm and www.codingplus.com/faq.htm

For the Japanese-English translator, MedDRA provides standardized terminology in both English and Japanese with associated numerical coding for each term. Terms are organized in a five-level hierarchy ranging from the Lowest Level Term (不層語) to a System Organ Class (器官別大分類). Access to the complete MedDRA dictionary requires a subscription through the appropriate MedDRA maintenance organization in the U.S. or Japan. One problem is that subscriptions can cost several thousand dollars, and they are not supposed to be shared across separate entities, such as between an agency and a freelance translator. Thus, it is not clear how a contracting translation agency will be able to require a freelance translator to use MedDRA coding in translating an adverse event report.

FIELD-SPECIFIC SEMINAR— PATENT TRANSLATION

Summary prepared by Richard Mott

The second of two field-specific seminars at IJET-16 was held on Monday, 6 June 2005, and was devoted to the topic of Patent Translation. The seminar featured presentations from three experienced Japanese-to-English patent translators.

Patents across the Pacific: Some Knotty Problems with Japanese Chemical Patents

Presented by Jon Johanning

Jon Johanning's presentation consisted of working through a number

of passages in Japanese patents that highlighted particular problems encountered by the Japanese-to-English translator. Example problems pertained to such things as making adjustments to what would at first sight be the most obvious or "direct" translation (直訳) of certain terms in order to obtain a more natural-reading English translation, translating in ways that are dictated by the function of patents as legal documents, and dealing with the problem of long sentences.

A dozen or so illustrative Japanese examples with proposed English translations that work around the problems encountered can be downloaded at <http://homepage.mac.com/zenner41/> (download "IJET paper.pdf").

An excerpt from Jon Johanning's presentation illustrates his approach to these kinds of problems:

"I assume, as a general 'theory of translation,' that the general role of the translator is to facilitate communication between writers of one language and readers of another one, in such a way that this communication will proceed, as much as possible, as though the writer and reader were sharing one language. If this is so, I would say that any translator will discover, after even a little experience, that 'literal' or 'direct' translations will not accomplish this purpose in many cases. The translator must often exercise her or his creativity in order to play the translator's role effectively, and thus every translation, even in supposedly 'dry' technical fields, is creative."

End-to-End Quality in Patent Translation: Confessions of a Quality Fanatic

Presented by Harold Abilock

A quality patent translation is accurate, complete, and in proper form according to patent writing convention. This goes beyond simply avoiding

mistranslations or a quick look-over before delivery. A quality translation is something that other translators would corroborate and one which the translator can stand behind.

The consequences of poor quality translation in the patent filing process are that poor translations can invite enforcement, whereby the scope of a patent might be limited, and that poor quality can hamper patent application prosecution. In contrast, the benefits of good quality are that good quality patents are viewed favorably by patent examiners; they can be easier to enforce, serve the public good by clearly delineating forbidden territory, provide greater professional satisfaction, and create satisfied clients.

A patent translator is best served when the translator can do good and do well in spite of deadline pressure and the need to maintain a remunerative volume of business. To this end, Harold Abilock outlined his 12 steps to quality in the patent translation process that he follows:

- 1) Clarifying the client's needs
- 2) Preparing for the job
- 3) Understanding the invention
- 4) Building a glossary
- 5) Labeling the drawings
- 6) Marking up the source text
- 7) Translating
- 8) Editing—first pass
- 9) Accepting/rejecting revisions from an editor
- 10) Editing—second pass
- 11) Editing—final
- 12) Finishing up (including billing the client and getting paid!)

Harold Abilock employs an editor as an essential and integral part of carrying out this process. Having another pair of eyes in the process not only improves quality, but also can increase the volume of work that can be done while maintaining quality. Also, note that 'Translating' is only step number 7 in the overall process outlined above. While the product

The general role of the translator is to facilitate communication between writers of one language and readers of another one.

produced and delivered is ostensibly a patent translation, a great deal of preparatory and follow up work beyond just the activity of translating is involved in delivering the desired quality to the client.

Seven-Digit Patent Translation: Breaking the Million-Word-per-Year Barrier

Presented by Dr. Warren Smith

The day-to-day operation of a freelance translation business involves a multitude of activities. Warren Smith, who specializes in semi-conductor manufacturing and related fields, presented a list of about 20 business activities required in the running of his translation operation. Out of these 20 or so activities, only three actually require a skilled translator: reading the document, selecting appropriate words in the target language, and editing the document. The bundle of skills within one head that are rare in the market and which comprise the value added that a skilled translator brings to a translation business are understanding of the source language, the ability to render excellent text in the target language, and an understanding of the field and technology of the text. Other activities, such as typing words into a word processor, layout, invoicing, and tracking receivables, can be done by someone other than a skilled translator. The principles behind achieving million-word-per-year levels of throughput are to have the translator focus on activities that require a skilled translator, to create a work environment that allows these translation activities to be done efficiently and with quality, and to spin off to others the many activities in a freelance business that do not directly require a skilled translator.

In implementing these principles, Warren Smith makes his business a family affair. In executing a translation, Warren sight translates and dictates his translations into a portable digital voice recorder. He emails digital voice files to his wife, who transcribes his voice-recorded translation making use of variable-speed playback equipment. Dictating translations eliminates the split focus of moving eyes and

concentration between Japanese and English text and can allow throughputs in excess of 5000 words per day easily. For simple layout work, Warren employs his teenage son, who learned computerized layout tools in his high-school coursework. For those translators who do not have so many family members handy to farm work out to, Warren pointed out that while employing a transcribing typist may cost a couple of pennies per word, if your throughput doubles as result, the cost is more than outweighed by increased revenue.

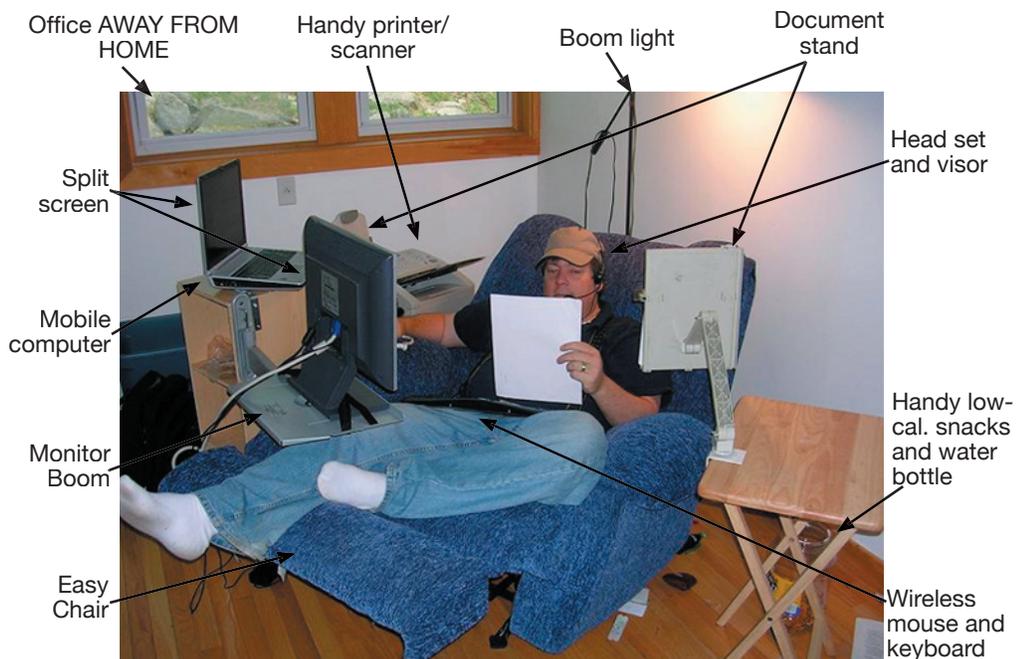
Creating an environment that allows high-volume translation output requires some thought. First, not all types of work lend themselves to high-volume work. Patents do, for example, but literature does not. Having a proper workspace is key. Warren presented his preferred work environment which includes an easy chair (no need to hunch over a desk), an array of computer screens and document holders arranged around the chair, a fax/printer in easy reach, good quality lighting, a hat (to cut down on glare and eyestrain from all the lighting), and a supply of water and healthy snacks close at hand. In addition, cultivating disciplined work habits is important.

Too many freelance translators treat themselves or allow themselves to be treated as if they were unemployed. It is advantageous to keep regular hours, and even to consider renting an office outside of the home. During working hours, work in a focused manner, and after hours in the evenings or on weekends, leave the work behind.

Making use of this method of spinning off non-translation tasks, creating an optimal work environment, and being disciplined about maintaining the separation between being at work and being away from work, Warren Smith claimed translation volumes of up to 1.5 million words per year are possible.



Richard Mott is a freelance translator specializing in technical subjects, primarily chemistry, engineering, and pharmaceuticals. Prior to becoming a translator, Richard had two decades of experience in technical and business positions in several multinational corporations, including six years at an R&D technical center in Kobe, Japan. He has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Colorado and an MBA in Finance and Marketing from the University of Chicago. He currently resides in Golden, Colorado with his wife and two sons.



The Million-Words-per-Year Office System (Ergonomics is Everything)

JLD Sponsors Invited Speakers at IJET-16

The Japanese Language Division sponsored five invited speakers at IJET-16. The presentation summaries from the IJET program are presented below. Presentations by invited speakers were at intermediate and advanced levels, and provided specialty-area training for experienced translators. Speeches covered the major fields of technical translation, including electronics, chemistry, computer applications, and medical imaging. Jim Davis recruited the speakers.

Electronics from i to z: An Introduction to Analog and Digital Circuits and Their Applications

Presented by Rusty Allred

We live in an analog world but our interaction with it is increasingly digital. Therefore, both analog and digital circuits are essential technologies now and for the future. Beginning with basic circuit theory and moving through microprocessors and into applications, this presentation introduces the listener to the fundamental ideas, concepts, terminology and nomenclature of analog and digital circuits. Topics of discussion include: the difference between analog and digital; basic analog circuit theory; an introduction to digital logic; the trend toward digitization; the role of digital signal processing in today's electronic systems; some of the challenges facing the electronics industry today; and a look inside real-world applications of both analog and digital electronics.

About the presenter

Rusty Allred holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Brigham Young University and a Master of Engineering in Technical Japanese from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was formerly a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff at Texas Instruments where he was instrumental in developing a digital audio processor

product line. Today he is a Senior Analyst with Mustang Technology Group where he continues to develop signal and image processing algorithms and consults for other companies on algorithm development, filter design and numerical methods. Dr. Allred holds 10 patents, has 14 additional patents pending, and has more than 20 publications.

Chemical Instrumentation: Information Engines for Industry

Presented by Forrest Weesner

There are thousands of products that can be categorized as chemical instruments. Some produce a single measured quantity for a very specific need. Others are flexible, configurable research instruments that find applications in dozens of different settings. Despite the variety, understanding chemical instrumentation in a general sense is possible. A systematic framework for describing the functional characteristics of virtually any technique will be presented. This framework allows the non-expert to grasp the relationship between system components at a high level without burdensome jargon. The major instrument categories and their applications will be introduced against the backdrop of the systematic framework. Optical spectroscopy instrumentation will be discussed in more detail. The most important piece of an instrument is the suite of features that create the human interface. The role of software and documentation in the overall usefulness of chemical instruments will be demonstrated.

About the presenter

Forrest Weesner is a senior applications scientist with Thermo Electron Corporation, a diversified supplier of laboratory and process instrumentation. He has over 12 years experience in product development and marketing with Thermo's vibrational

spectroscopy unit based in Madison, Wisconsin. Before joining Thermo Electron, Forrest held research positions with General Electric and Los Alamos National Laboratory. He holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is co-author of over 20 papers in analytical and physical chemistry.

Automotive Infotainment and Telematics Overview

Presented by Scott Rush

This presentation provides an overview of products and technologies within the automotive Infotainment and Telematics market with an emphasis on relevance to technical Japanese translation. Current product offerings for radio, telematics, passenger entertainment, and navigation systems are presented along with a forecast of future product trends in these areas worldwide. An overview of the technologies employed in these products is discussed, including system architectures, playback mechanisms (both discs and hard drives), automotive networking standards, embedded microprocessors, and digital signal processing circuits. Designing, manufacturing, and selling automotive Infotainment systems today requires a global supply chain. The key English and Japanese vocabulary is summarized for each topic in the presentation.

About the presenter

Scott Rush is a Senior Staff Engineer with General Motors Corporation in Warren, MI. Scott is currently the Lead System Architect for Infotainment products in GM's Global Electrical Center department. Scott has been designing Automotive Infotainment and Telematics systems for General Motors since 1994. He holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University and a Master of Engineering in Technical Japanese from the University of Wisconsin.

Theory and Application of Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Presented by Sean B. Fain, Ph.D.

In this presentation, basic concepts and specific applications of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to medicine will be discussed. MRI has matured as a medical imaging tool since its inception in the early 1980's. Hydrogen nuclei in water molecules within the body are used as atomic-scale radio transmitters. Each proton rotates, or "precesses," in the presence of a strong magnetic field just as a spinning top precesses when it is tipped off-axis. This precession generates a measurable signal at a specific radio frequency—a phenomenon known as magnetic resonance. Spatial mapping of the signal is achieved by varying the detected frequency emanating from different locations, similar to the changing tones of a piano keyboard. A brief overview of the electronics for signal detection and computer processing for image formation will be

presented followed by applications to clinical diagnosis of disease.

About the presenter

Dr. Fain has 10 years of experience in the field of MRI. He has authored more than 20 journal articles and 3 U.S. patents focusing on applications for fast MRI and MR angiography. In his present position as Assistant Professor in the Medical Physics Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he is conducting research programs in pulmonary MRI using hyperpolarized noble gases and perfusion MRI of cancer. He is the recipient of several academic awards, most recently a Junior Investigator Award from the Sandler Foundation for Asthma Research for his work on functional lung imaging in asthma.

Computer Security: Keeping Your Intellectual Property Safe

Presented by Craig Paul

Craig's presentation outlines some "best practices" for keeping your home

computers and wired and wireless networks safe from invaders, human or otherwise. His topics include setting up networks correctly, and encrypting personal and business information on your computer to keep others from "discovering" it. He will discuss these issues based on different types of household scenarios, and list useful resources available on the Internet for staying up-to-date. This presentation will be a lightly structured and heavily interactive session where the audience is welcome to ask many questions, basic or otherwise.

About the presenter

Craig's career has involved international networking and network security, and his current job continues to involve securing computer systems and networks. Craig has been a frequent speaker for Kansas Research and Educational Network on the topic of computer security. Also, as a spouse of a freelance translator, he is familiar with the security concerns that freelancers must face while working from home.

ATA CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

James Davis, Diane Howard, Connie Prener, Izumi Suzuki, Ken Wagner

Many thanks to Ken Wagner for providing the following article on the ATA Certification Workshop.

The ATA Exam

The American Translators Association (ATA) Certification Examination is an open-book, proctored, three-hour exam in which candidates are asked to translate two passages of approximately 250 words each. Translation of the general passage is mandatory. For their second passage, candidates may choose between a passage taken from the areas of science/technology/medicine or one from the fields of law/business/finance. Detailed information about the exam can be found on the ATA website (<http://www.atanet.org/>). This article summarizes a portion of the information found on the

Web site but is not a substitute for it. Anyone considering taking the exam should carefully read all of the material on the ATA site.

The exam is not an entry-level exam. It is a challenging examination that tests three professional translation skills:

- Comprehension of the source-language text
- Translation techniques
- Writing ability in the target language

Expertise in one of the above skills is not enough to get a candidate successfully through the exam. In other words, no matter how well you read Japanese, if you can't produce professional-level English sentences, it is unlikely that you will pass. Conversely, beautifully written English cannot compensate for failure

to understand the Japanese text. Knowledge of translation techniques includes knowing how to convey the meaning of the original text in the target language without any awkward "translationese," understanding the proper use of dictionaries, and some degree of sophistication in maintaining register and translating for the intended audience.

To take the exam, candidates are required to meet eligibility requirements (http://www.atanet.org/acc/faq_eligibility_requirements.htm). Practice tests, which consist of a passage from the previous year's exam, are available for a fee and are graded by the same people who grade the exam. Because fewer than 20% of the candidates who take the ATA exam pass, taking a practice test is a good way of determining whether you are

ready to sit for the exam. Workshops such as the one given at IJET-16 are not substitutes for the practice test.

How Exams Are Marked

Errors on exams are marked according to the “Framework for Standard Error Marking” that is posted on the ATA website. Graders, who are ATA-certified in the language pair being tested, deduct points in increments of 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16 points, depending on the nature and seriousness of the error and the consequences for the passage overall. Failure is set at -18 points or more. Up to three quality points are possible; a candidate must pass both passages in order to pass the exam.

Candidates who fail the Japanese-to-English exam generally do so because they fail to understand the source text or because they have difficulty conveying the meaning of the text in appropriate, grammatical English. Some examples from the general passage in the 2003 exam year, which dealt with Emperor Hirohito’s initial interview with General MacArthur, are given below.

天皇陛下のお供をして陛下と二人だけで、第一生命館内のマッカーサー元帥の部屋の入り口に立った。

The following translation is an example of misunderstanding the source text, -8: “The two men accompanying the Emperor stood in the entrance to General MacArthur’s office in the Daiichi Seimei Building.” When rereading his or her translation, the candidate should have wondered what happened to the third man (and where the Emperor was) and revised the text accordingly.

The next version contains only minor errors (but minor errors rapidly add up): “I had accompanied the Emperor and stood alone with him in front of the entrance to General MacArthur’s room in the Daiichi Seimi Building.” One point was taken off

for spelling (Seimi) and two points for terminology: “room” instead of “office.” Careful proofreading is very important and could make the difference between passing and failing the exam. While the dictionary definition of 部屋 is “room,” the proper English term for the place in which a person sits behind a desk and meets visitors is an “office.” The term presented a challenge to the candidate’s knowledge of translation techniques.

The following translation received no points off: “I accompanied the emperor as we stood alone at the entrance to General MacArthur’s office in the Daiichi Seimei Building.”

元帥は自分の机の席で足を組んでパイプをくわえたまま動こうともしない。

One candidate translated the sentence as, “The general, with his pipe in his mouth, is sitting at his desk, crossing his legs. He stays in that positions,

not moving at all, not even an inch.” The translation contains several problems, the first of which is tense. Points were taken off for the two present progressive verbs in the first sentence and for the simple present in the second sentence (grammar -2 for each verb). The spelling error, “positions,” resulted in another point off. The addition of “not even an inch” received -4 (both additions and omissions are marked). In reading over the translation, the candidate needed to think about verb tense in the overall flow of the narrative.

Another candidate produced the following, error-free version of the sentence: “The general sat at his desk with his legs crossed and his pipe in his mouth and showed no sign of moving.”

The passage goes on to describe the Emperor taking responsibility for the war and asking the United States to provide food to prevent more innocent people in Japan from starving. He then says:

ここに皇室財産の有価券類をまとめて持参したので、その費用の一部に充てて頂ければ仕合わせである。

One candidate rendered this as, “I have brought with me all of the securities that belong to the Imperial Household and would feel very fortunate if you would apply these toward the cost of the food.” This sentence contains only one error, but a fairly serious one: the addition of “all” (addition, -8). No points were deducted for the addition of “of the food,” because the phrase correctly identified and clarified the antecedent of その費用. The following translation, “To cover a portion of the expense, I have brought with me some valuables that have been collected from the Imperial Household” also had -8 taken off for the mistranslation of 有価券類 as “valuables.”

No points were taken off for the following translation: “I have collected and brought with me negotiable securities that are the property of the Imperial Household, and I would be pleased if you applied these to a portion of the costs.”

Note: Unlike the following passage, which was used in the IJET-16 workshop, ATA exam passages do not include names or titles that require research using the Internet or other electronic resources.

Workshop Passage and Sample Translations

Translate everything below the line. The target audience is a think tank studying Japan’s relations with its neighbors. The article was abstracted from a Yomiuri Shimbun editorial.

過不足のない、誠意ある回答と言っている。韓国、中国からの歴史教科書修正要求に対する政府の対応を評価したい。

今年の検定で合格した中学の歴史教科書に対し、韓国、中国が記述の修正を求めていた箇所は計四十三項目に及んだ。政府は、このうち古代朝鮮史に関する二か所を誤りと認めただけで、近現代史を中心とする他のすべてについて「明白な誤りとはいえない」として、修正できないことを両国に伝えた。しかし、両国の要求の多くは、歴史的事実の解釈への不満や、学習指導要領にない事実を書くよう求めるものだった。その意味では、もともと現行制度下での修正は無理だったと言える。

今回の問題の発端となった「新しい歴史

The exam is not an entry-level exam. It is a challenging examination that tests three professional translation skills.

教科書をつくる会」は、政府の回答に先立って、韓国の修正要求のうち五か所について自主訂正を申し出た。「誤りではないが、隣国の友人を傷つけたとすれば本意ではない」との理由だった。

韓国、中国は、今回の回答に強く反発している。再修正要求も予想されるが、安易な政治的妥協で悪例を残してはならない。日本としては今後も粘り強く制度への理解を求めていくほかない。

Sample Translation A

We affirm that the Japanese government's response to the demands from South Korea and China regarding revision of Japanese history textbooks is a sincere and measured response.

In the middle school history textbooks that received government approval this year there are a total of forty-three items about which South Korea and China are seeking revisions. Among these items the Japanese government has only acknowledged two errors related to ancient Korean history. With regard to all other claims, which pertain primarily to modern history, the Japanese government has stated that, "these cannot be considered clear errors," and has conveyed to both countries that revisions cannot be made. However, the majority of the demands made by both countries represent either dissatisfaction with the interpretation of historical facts or requests to include facts that fall outside curriculum guidelines. In that sense textbook revision under the current system can be considered inherently impossible.

The "Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform"—the group that lies at the source of the current problem—offered, in advance of the Japanese government's response, to independently correct five of the items included among the South Korean demands. The following reason was given: "Although these items are not errors, it is not our intention to cause injury to friends in neighboring countries."

South Korea and China are strongly objecting to the current response by the Japanese government. Further demands for textbook revision are expected to appear, but (the) Japan(ese government) must not set a bad

precedent by making a convenient political compromise. Japan has no choice but to continue tenaciously seeking understanding (by other countries) of the current system.

Sample Translation B

We want to applaud the government's response to South Korean and Chinese demands for revision of Japanese history textbooks as a measured, straightforward reply.

South Korea and China are demanding revisions to the descriptions in a total of 43 passages in the middle school textbooks officially approved this year. Of these, the Japanese government acknowledged errors in only two passages concerning ancient Korean history and told the two nations that none of the other passages, which centered on recent history, could be revised because "they could not be considered obvious errors." However, most of the Chinese and South Korean demands are either dissatisfaction with the interpretation of historical facts or requests to include facts that are outside the officially designated curriculum. Thus, the revisions would be intrinsically impossible under the current system.

Before the government issued its response, the "Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform," which was the source of the current problem, voluntarily offered to revise five passages among those cited by South Korea. The group's reasoning was that, "the passages are not erroneous, but we don't want to hurt our friends in a neighboring country."

South Korea and China have vehemently rejected the government's response. Further demands for revisions can be anticipated, but an easy political compromise would set a bad example. Japan has no choice but to continue to hold fast to its demands that other countries understand its textbook approval system.

Sample Translation C

We commend our government for responding appropriately and in good faith to demands from South Korea and China for the amendment of a Japanese history textbook.

China and Korea demanded that a total of 43 passages in a middle school history textbook be revised, even though that same textbook had passed the government's approval process this year. The Japanese government conceded that two of the cited passages, which dealt with ancient Korean history, are inaccurate. However, in its responses to the two nations, the government stated that the other passages cited could not be construed

as obvious errors. However, most of the demands emanating from South Korea and China were rooted in dissatisfaction with the interpretation of historical facts or with the absence of accounts of historical facts not included in Japan's curriculum guidelines. One possible interpretation of this statement is "such revisions are not possible in the context

of the current system."

The "Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform," the source of the current problem, voluntarily amended five of the passages indicated by South Korea and China before the government response was issued. The Society explained that it wasn't admitting to any errors, but wished to avoid offending its friends in South Korea and China.

Both South Korea and China have voiced strong opposition to the Japanese government's response. Further revisions are likely, but we advise against setting a bad example by acquiescing to such demands for political convenience. Japan's only option is to do all possible to gain acceptance of the system currently in place.

...no matter how well you read Japanese, if you can't produce professional-level English sentences, it is unlikely that you will pass.