

answering language queries. Why is it a bad thing for this author that Mario relies on these online resources? If the fact that he formed this team in 2001 (and posted this website in 2002) is taken to be satirical, what is wrong with having started so recently?

- (f) The second paragraph of the section on “references” is about free tests. What is at issue here? What freelancer attitude is the author trying to satirize? (Note the grammatical error at the end of the last sentence: “. . . need prove.” Is this error a significant part of the satire? Rephrase Mario’s statement from a freelancer’s point of view without the satire, making the reluctance to take free tests a professionally respectable attitude.
- (g) The sentence “As a result one can improve their professionalism learning how to breed suspicion about an agency they have failed a test for, how to set up new translators guilds, how to quote jewels of funny *deja-vu* social theory in native German while they hardly speak a correct Italian, without any intervention of the local moderators, strictly committed to preserve the Subject syntax correctness” is a satire on translator listservs like Langit (langit@list.cineca.it) and Lantra (lantra-l@segate.sunet.se). Comment on the three different assumptions underlying the satire:
- (i) All translator listservs are dominated by freelancers who are suspicious of agencies. That suspicion is not based on agency incompetence or failure to pay, but on the freelancers’ own failures to pass the agency tests.
 - (ii) Translator listservs help freelancers organize into translator guilds.
 - (iii) Translator listservs help freelancers *pretend* to possess worthless knowledge and language skills.
- (h) The lines “We are forced to act this way in the presence of our honourable colleagues. But we are willing to grossly knock rates down in private bids or if you contact us directly” deal with hypocrisy about dumping. What are the practices the author is satirizing, and why are they a problem?
- (i) Why does the author satirize “gobbledygook accounting methods”? What are the financial realities behind this attack on how freelancers calculate their fees?
- (j) Given the line “We are left-wingers but not morons, after all,” what political orientation would you say the author has, and why? What significance might political beliefs have for the translation marketplace?

Exercises

1. Set up a translating speed test. Translate first 10 words in five minutes; then 20 words in five minutes; then 30, 40, 50, and so on. Stick with the five-minute period each time, but add 10 more words. Try to pace yourself as you proceed through each text segment: when you do 10 words in five minutes, translate two words the first minute, two more the second, etc. When you are trying to do 100 words in five minutes, try to translate 20 words each minute. Pay attention to your “comfort zone” as the speed increases. How does it feel to translate slowly? Medium-speed? Fast? When the pace gets too fast for your comfort, stop. Discuss or reflect on what this test tells you about your attitudes toward translation speed.
2. Reflect on times in your studies or a previous career when you were close to burnout – when the stress levels seemed intolerable, when nothing in your work gave you pleasure. Feel again all those feelings. Now direct them to a translation task, for this class or another. Sit and stare at the source text, feeling the stress rising: it’s due tomorrow and you haven’t started working on it yet; it looks so boring that you want to scream; the person you’re doing it for (a client, your teacher) is going to hate your translation; you haven’t had time for yourself, time to put your feet up and laugh freely at some silly TV show, in months. Pay attention to your bodily responses: what do you feel?
3. Now shake your head and shoulders and relax; put all thought of deadlines and critiques out of your head. Give yourself ten minutes to do nothing; then look through the source text with an eye to doing the silliest translation you can imagine. Start doing the silly translation in your head; imagine a group of friends laughing together over the translation. Work with another person to come up with the funniest bad translation of the text, and laugh together while you work. Now imagine yourself doing the “straight” or serious translation – and compare your feelings about the task now with your feelings under stress.

Suggestions for further reading

Introduction to translating: Anderman *et al.* (2003), Duff (1989), Finlay (1971), Robinson (1991)

Translator handbooks: Fuller (1973), Hatim and Munday (2004), Jones (1997), Picken (1989), Samuelsson-Brown (1993/2010), Sofer (1996/2009)

Translation practices explained: Alcaraz and Hughes (2002), Austermühl (2001), Dias Cinta and Remael (2007), Gillies (2005), Kelly (2005), Mayoral Asensio (2003), Mikkelsen

(2000a), Montalt and Gonzalez Davis (2007), Mossop (2001/2007), Romero-Fresco (2011), Torresi (2010), Wagner *et al.* (2002)

Translation technology: Mossop (2006), Biau Gil and Pym (2006)

Note: Jost Zetzsche's *Tool Box Newsletter* is a regularly updated source of news related to translation technology. See <http://www.internationalwriters.com/toolkit/current.html>.