

Ethics of Translation

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A professional translator or interpreter does not simply translate words from one language to another.

His duty is to interpret and connect ideas from one culture to another.

Discussion: How is it possible?

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Faithfully conveying ideas requires translators and interpreters to express appropriate intonation and inflection and to properly transmit the concepts and inferences of the speaker to the listener (interpreter) or the writer to the reader (translator).

Typically, translators render in one direction while interpreters alternate between two languages.

Discussion: what other aspects do you know in translation and interpretation process?

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Preparation and Qualifications

Professional translators and interpreters need comprehensive mastery of grammar, syntax and vocabulary of both the source and target languages, and in-depth understanding of cultural norms. Additionally, extensive diverse general knowledge increases the translator's or interpreter's understanding and skill.

Discussion: Can aforementioned matters be considered as ethics in translation or interpretation process?

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The American Translators Association (ATA) suggests successful interpreter and translators be "avid readers of a wide variety of material" and participate in ongoing discussion, training and educational opportunities.

The ATA and other programs certify through screening and testing. Certification requires adherence to a code of ethics.

A professional interpreter or translator should only accept assignments for which she is qualified and certified. The balance between knowing her limitations and stretching to increase her skill level comes with experience, training, research and a willingness to accept feedback.

Discussion: What is your idea?

Conduct

Washington's Department of Social and Health Services requires certified interpreters and translators to operate within their scope of practice.

That means they should not offer advice, express personal opinions or give counsel or other services to their clients.

Effective, professional interpreters and translators maintain cultural sensitivity, respect and a professional demeanor, including dressing appropriately for the situation so as not to be a distraction. The interpreter or translator should defer to the client's instructions.

Discussion: What other points are important as professional ones for translators or interpreters?

Conflict of Interest

Interpreters and translators should disclose any perceived lack of objectivity or conflict of interest, including personal relationship with one party or the other.

Providing services for acquaintances or family members may violate the individual's right to privacy. A translator may experience unresolved textual difficulties that create conflict, including unclear source text, unconfirmed terminology or a personal bias that he must disclose to his client.

Discussion: In this case, what is your idea?

The Message

A faithful interpretation or translation conveys the message the speaker or writer intends. A thorough rendering of the source language message considers linguistic variations, tone and the spirit of the message without omitting or altering statements or adding unsolicited explanations.

A transliteration (literal word-for-word translation), however, may not convey the message or make sense, particularly in the use of idioms. In that case, substitute an appropriate, equivalent cultural idiom to maintain the spirit of the message.

Discussion: What do you think of conveying the message during translation or interpretation?

Confidentiality

An interpreter or translator must not divulge any information obtained during the performance of his services, including access to documentation or reports. He should not disclose, discuss or offer opinions on any information accessed through the course of work unless required to by law. Furthermore, he must not use information obtained in the course of his work for personal, professional or financial advantage.

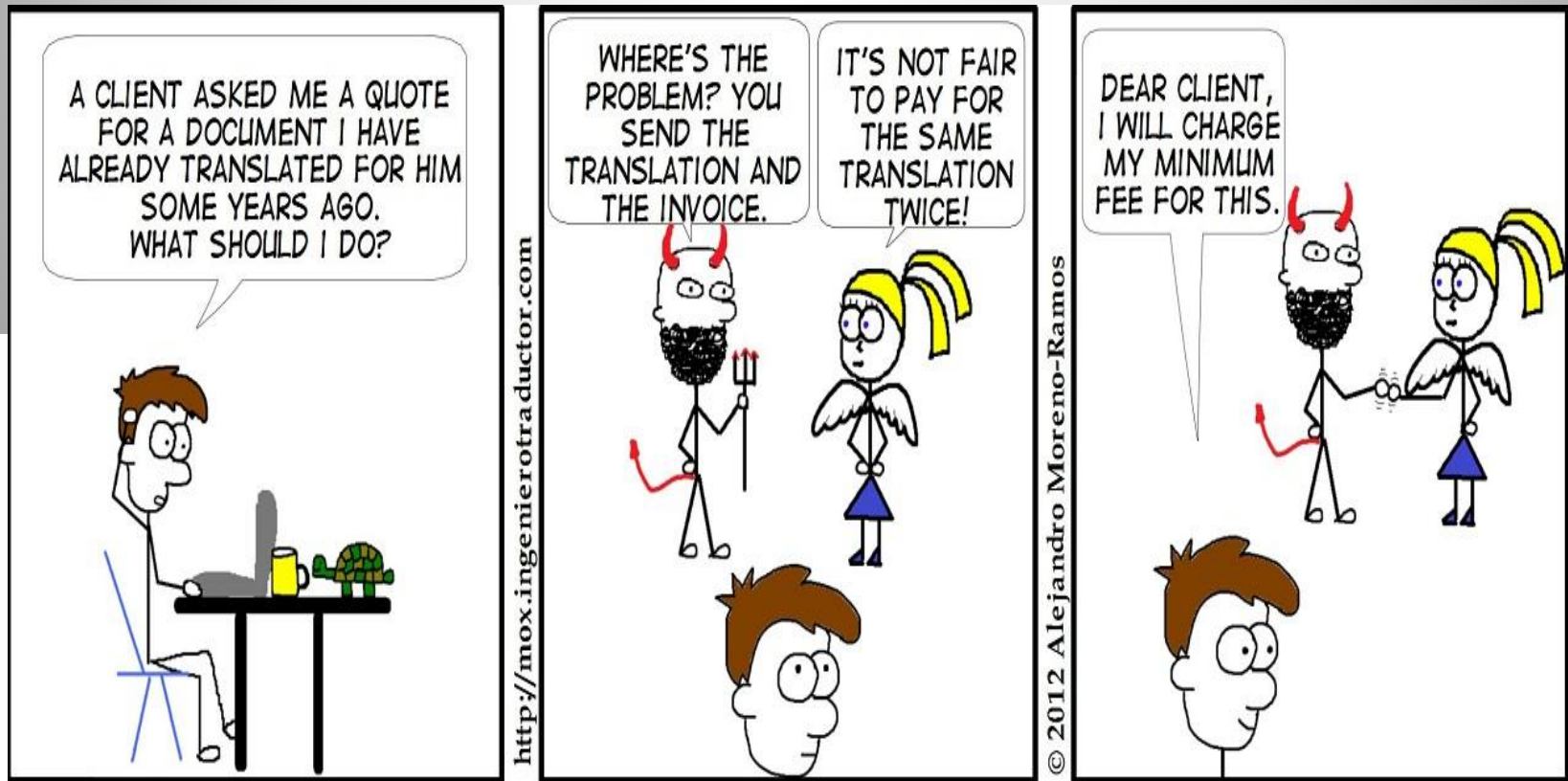
Discussion: Do you believe that?

Impartiality

A translator or interpreter should remain neutral, unbiased and impartial with regard to either party's gender, disability, race, ethnicity or national origin, age, educational level, socioeconomic status, religious or political beliefs. She should refrain from offering unsolicited comments or recommendations except to assist communication.

Discussion: have you already influenced by some factors such as gender, race or national origin during your profession?

Discussion: I you were in his shoes, how do you make decision?



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Discussion: Do you believe that?

Thank you for your kind attention