



# The Interpreter's Café

October 2010 newsletter

Thank you all for coming to our meeting today. Carlota, Catalina, Richard, Laurie, and Alina were at the Brew HaHa on Market Street. It was great to see so many interpreters and have an opportunity to talk and work a little. We did an exercise that involved translating common English phrases like *Do Not Enter*, and *All-You-Can-Eat Buffet* into Spanish. It wasn't as easy as it seems. I enclose the list below. I added a few idioms brought in by Richard who treasures them so. Catalina recommended a book: "La traducción del inglés al castellano: Guía para el traductor" by Marina Orellana, aprox. \$20.00. Carlota and Alina mentioned current events and how the newscasters dare to act as interpreters with sometimes dreadful results. Laurie was working in family court and reminded us to pay attention to the quality of the interpreting when the clerks decide to call an interpreting-by-phone agency. It might be helpful to make a note on the invoice so our supervisor is aware that the person in that particular case was assisted by an outside source. I hope to see everyone again next month. Happy Halloween!



A copy of the glossary is attached to this email. It is in WORD format so you can edit it.

During the year or so that we have been getting together, I have been creating and sharing these newsletters and glossaries. There is, however important information in my notes that is not included in the publications. I am assembling some of those items into a list below:

1. Always adhere to the code of ethics and know your rights and responsibilities.
2. When preparing for a hearing, the interpreter may encounter resistance from the non-English speaker or the attorney. Explain that it is your "professional duty" to inquire about events, names, addresses, etc.
3. When referring to courthouse offices or departments, always use the same name the non-English speaker will see on the dual-language sign. For instance, if the sign on the wall says *abogado de oficio*, don't interpret: go to the office of the *defensor público*.
4. Before going into the hearing ask the non-English speaker to speak clearly, slowly, to pause, and that he/she should not respond to questions until they are interpreted into Spanish.
5. Once on the record (or before if you/the judge prefer) take a moment to explain the role of the interpreter. I once prepared a short speech and I recite it when necessary: *Yo soy la intérprete asignada a su caso hoy. Debo interpretar todo lo que se dice del inglés al español y del español al inglés. No puedo darle consejos ni opiniones. Si usted no entiende una pregunta, diga en voz alta "no entiendo". Si hablo demasiado rápido o con palabras muy difíciles, dígame al abogado y/o al juez que hable más lentamente o con palabras más sencillas. ¿Tiene alguna pregunta acerca de las responsabilidades del intérprete?*

October 2010- glossary reviewed at the interpreter's café

Translations on pg. 2

Confidential information should not be left unattended in conference rooms

Unattended baggage will be removed

Children under 12 should not be left unattended

Lose weight!

Do not enter

No smoking allowed

Employees only

One way

Wrong way

You are ordered to pay restitution to the victim

All-you-can-eat Buffet

Watch what you eat

Resource person

Ask your doctor

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Idioms:

Up to snuff

To have a thick skin

A miscarriage of justice

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Una persona antipático/a

Un atorrante

Un desgraciado          una maldita desgraciada

Confidential information should not be left unattended in conference rooms

No deje documentos de orden confidencial en la sala de conferencias

Unattended baggage will be removed

Equipaje abandonado será confiscado

Children under 12 should not be left unattended

Los niños menores de 12 años deben estar bajo supervisión de un adulto

Lose weight!

Adelgace

Do not enter

Prohibida la entrada

No smoking allowed

Prohibido fumar

Employees only

Area restringida a empleados

One way

Mano única

Wrong way

Contramano

You are ordered to pay restitution to the victim

Se le ordena indemnizar a la víctima

All-you-can-eat Buffet

Restaurante de tenedor libre

Watch what you eat

Cuídese en las comidas

Resource person

Persona entendida en la materia

Ask your doctor

Consulte con/a su médico

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Idioms:

Up to snuff-no **estar a la altura de**

To have a thick skin-**ser insensible**

A miscarriage of justice- no se hizo justicia

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Una persona antipático/a –a nasty person

Un atorrante -a good-for-nothing

Un desgraciado- swine/snake      una maldita desgraciada- a wreched witch