

T.I.E.S. Symposium '83

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T.I.E.S. SYMPOSIUM '83

The Translators and Interpreters Educational Society (T.I.E.S.), a California-based non-profit organization with an international membership, held its first annual symposium at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, from April 27 through 30.

Brigham Young University is less than a hour's drive from Salt Lake City International Airport, and is located on a beautiful campus with the towering Wasatch Mountain Range at its back door. Its outstanding physical facilities are the justifiable pride of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In keeping with the Church's missionary vocation, language studies and translation also share in the educational emphasis of the University, which also promotes programmed and computer assisted instruction, notably in language studies.

Under the able and dynamic coordination of Ms. Etilvia Arjona, the Symposium brought together an interesting and diverse group of students, practitioners, researchers and educators in several areas of translation and interpretation. The breadth of the topics covered, and very often simultaneously, makes a thorough review a formidable task. Indeed, as Vladimir Ivir indicated in his state of the art address on research in consecutive and simultaneous interpretation at the close of the conference ("Research on Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpretation: Implications for Translation Theory") (A), there is an important and growing sum of knowledge accumulated in the numerous areas of translation and interpretation activity, and although there is as yet no summary theory, there is abundant evidence of multi-faceted initiative as the following summary of presentations bears witness.

The themes covered during the four days of the Symposium are presented below. CULTURE and TRANSLATION, with papers on "The Norwegian Experience" (Fritz Konig) and "Keys for Finding the Best Resources in Translation and Interpretation Within Intercultural Communication" (Deborah L. Coon).

NEW TECHNOLOGIES: "Computer-Assisted Instruction — Where are we now? Where do we go from here?" (Alan Meredith); "The Role of the Computer in Foreign Language Instruction" (P. Franklin Wine); "Manual and Computer Assisted Translation at ITT, Great Britain" (Ulla Magnusson-Murray) (A); "Using new Technologies to Create Annotated Videodiscs and an Interactive Videodisc/Conversation Simulator (Junius L. Bennison); a panel discussion on the research and development of Computer software (Gerardo Vasquez-Azora, facilitator); hands-on experience with computers; and demonstrations of computer assisted translation and simultaneous interpretation equipment, as well as a tour of the language training facilities at the Brigham Young University Missionary Training Center.

COURT INTERPRETING: "Workshop on Criminal Procedure in the U.S., Latin America and Some European Countries" (Sofia Zahler); "Training and Professional Development Issues" (Ely Weinstein); "The Education of the Bilingual Paralegal" (Marilyn Frankenthaler) (P); "The Problematic Role of the Interpreter in the Bilingual Courtroom" (Susan Berk-Seligson) (A); "The Certified Interpreter's Work in German Courts (Letizia Fuchs-Vidotto) (V); "Determining the Need for an Interpreter" (Gradalope Valdeso) (V).

CURRICULUM ISSUES IN TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION: "Definitions and Models" (Etilvia Arjona) (A); "Curriculum Design and Curriculum Change at Laurentian University" (Ronald Henry) (P); "Genesis of a Program in Translation and Interpretation" (Josette Coughlin) (P); "Writing the Course Syllabus" (Grant Harrison) (A); "Models of Curriculum Theory and Applications" (Scott Enright) (A); "Design of an Ancillary Skills Program in Translation" (Marian McMaster); "The Impact of Logic Systems in Language: Making Sense" (Lynn Tyler) (A).

SEMANTICS: "Form, Function and Meaning in Translation and Interpretation", (plenary session) (Robert M. Ingram) (V); "Importance of Syntactic Structure in Translation" (J. Halvor Clegg).

A workshop on "Translating and Interpreting in the MEDICAL DOMAIN" (Laura Murphy) (A).

"SIGN LANGUAGES and THEIR INTERPRETATION" (plenary session) (Robert M. Ingram) (V) (Jan Kauda); "The Trilingual Project: The Use of Computer Video-tapes for English/Spanish/Sign Language Learning" (C. Ben Christensen).

THEORETICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL ISSUES: "Teaching Students to Translate into their Second Language: Pitfalls, Problems, Expectations, Exercises" (Roda P. Roberts)

(P); "Teaching for Understanding" (Larrie E. Gale) (A); "Teaching Students to Take the Maximum Advantage of Contextual Cues in Simultaneous Interpretation" (Nancy Schweda Nicholson) (A); "Aptitude Testing for Simultaneous Interpretation" (Georgeanne Weler) (V); "Aptitude Testing of Interpretation Students at the Polytechnic of Central London" (Sylvie Lambert) (V); "Summative and Formative Evaluation of Student Performance" (Etilvia Arjona) (V); "Using Media to Read Interpretation" (Jan Kauda) (A); "Using Videotapes to Teach Consecutive Interpretation" (Nancy Schweda Nicholson) (A); "Classroom Techniques for an Introductory Course in Sight Translation" (Fred Nieto); "Non-Traditional Sources for Training Materials" (Marian McMaster); "Assessing Oral Proficiency in Foreign Languages" (Joanne Englebert); "Research in Consecutive Interpretation at the Polytechnic of Central London" (Sylvie Lambert) (V).

The WRITING PROCESS: "Readability Indices as Indicators of Text Difficulty" (Randall Jones) (A); "Text Linguistics, Writing and Translation" (Gerardo Vazquez-Azora).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: "Guidelines for Professional Development" (Chrystal Anderson) (A); panel discussion on the Training of In-House Personnel; "The Media in Translation: How do you make translation more than just an afterthought?" (Joe Stringham, Omar Canals).

During the final afternoon of the Symposium, a roundtable discussion was also held on the "Problems Encountered in Interpretation" (A). It included a number of discussants and touched upon a variety of language related concerns (e.g., Samoan, Cambodian, Navaho, Polish, Greek, Thai, American Sign Language...).

During the four days of the Symposium, participants had the opportunity to visit the TIES MOBILE LIBRARY. It contains a fairly extensive collection of books and articles on translation and interpretation, as well as a selection of publications in related fields, including intercultural communications, sociolinguistics,

psycholinguistics, pragmatics, and semantics. A list is to be prepared and made available to members.

In the afternoon of the second day of the Symposium, a guided EXCURSION to Salt Lake City allowed for a tour of the LDS Genealogical Library, the LDS Conference Interpreting Facilities in the famous Tabernacle on Temple Square, as well as attending an evening rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Sights, sounds and inspirations well worth one's acquaintance.

The range and scheduling of the presentations, demonstrations and panels made complete coverage of all these events by one person impossible, as is so often the case with ambitious programs. This heightens the temptation of eclecticism, and every change in the agenda wreaks havoc with personal timetables. Yet, I know of no way of avoiding the problems inherent to such all-encompassing gatherings. Especially when they convene participants from across a whole continent and abroad.

Also as a result of the scope of interests, one could wonder if the name of the organizations does not belie its vocation to the extent that the educational orientation is understood too broadly. For example, a good number of the participants expressed the need for workshops on the techniques of translation and interpretation, a request the Society must take into consideration. But this, in my estimation, is more akin to professional upgrading and cannot become the "raison d'être" of TIES. I do, however, think that there can be a forum for teachers, practitioners and apprentices. The TIES Symposium '83 provided that.

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The letters between parentheses refer to availability:

(A): Audio recording

(V): Video recording

(P): Paper presentation

Obtainable from the Brigham Young University Conference Center Provo, Utah 84602 with reference to T.I.E.S. Recordings for a \$6.00 U.S. average fee plus postage and handling. Prices for papers vary according to length.