

FROM THE EDITORS

The first issue of our Newsletter is finally about to go to print! We do most sincerely apologize for having been such a long time over it but we hope that in future, with everyone's cooperation, we shall be rather more punctual.

The Newsletter will be carrying short research articles, conference papers, bibliographies, communications and various announcements, our idea being to provide a readily accessible forum for an exchange of information. In particular, the 'Work in Progress' section aims at giving details about dissertations, theses and research being carried out in our respective universities.

Quite clearly, the scientific study of interpretation is now emerging from its infancy and it is also becoming more and more obvious that the most appropriate methodology for this study is bound to be of an interdisciplinary nature. This clearly involves general linguistics with particular emphasis on text linguistics, whereas neurology and related sciences seem likely to be able to provide by far the most profitable approach. Of course there may be interpreters who consider most of this intense research activity rather pointless and, in any case, certainly not very rewarding, believing that interpretation is essentially a question of having ability. I have actually heard people make such remarks - which is rather like saying that one becomes an interpreter by the grace of God alone. Clearly, apart from the Good Lord having more important problems to think about, such a remark in no way explains the interpreter's ability to carry out extremely complicated operations requiring remarkable psycho-motor co-ordination. I do not mean by this that interpretation goes beyond what is humanly possible, but it certainly does stretch the interpreter to his very limits, especially if we consider that his output must, as a matter of principle, seem natural to his clients whereas what he is doing is anything but natural.

On earlier occasions, I expressed some ideas as to how I think we could make progress in dealing with at least a part of the problems involved, so I shall not repeat myself here. What I would like to do, however, is stress once again the usefulness of experimental study on disturbance factors, including those perceived subjectively and which make the interpreter's performance more difficult for him and less acceptable for others. A deeper understanding of what interpretation really is is bound to lead to improved teach-

ing methodology too. But that is not all, for the correct application of neurolinguistic methodology should help us considerably when having to assess a given individual's potential to become a proficient interpreter.

In this context, then, our Newsletter was first conceived - the modest voice of a group of scholars and researchers from the University of Trieste. As time goes by, it will become all the more authoritative if we can have the help and contributions of all our colleagues elsewhere who are interested in what is happening in this field.

Franco Crevatin

The first issue of the Interpreters' Newsletter is, as you will note, very much a home effort but only because we felt we had to start the ball rolling. We do hope that from now on we will be able to publish letters, articles and announcements from colleagues from all over the world. It must be said that even this current issue is not totally the work of the Trieste team since acknowledgements must go to GRITS (Groupe de Réflexion Théorique et Scientifique) of AIIC, whose Convenor is Prof. Jennifer Mackintosh, to Prof. Daniel Gile (from INALCO - Université Paris III) for his invaluable help in compiling the bibliography and for his two contributions, and to Prof. Heidemarie Salevsky (from Humboldt Universitaet - Berlin) for providing most interesting bibliographical information on studies conducted in Eastern European countries and in the USSR. By the way, should omissions or imprecisions in the bibliographies be noted, would you please let us know so that we can keep them as accurate and up to date as possible.

The next issue of the Newsletter should be coming out in the spring of next year. Therefore, we would ask readers to contribute in the following ways: (a) through the Letters to the Editor section, your comments, opinions and criticisms concerning the content of the Newsletter may be expressed. In this way we hope to provide a channel of open dialogue between contributors and readers, thus having an on-going exchange of ideas and information from all over the world; (b) as our General Editor has pointed out, we feel that the Work in Progress section is very important and of great interest to everyone. Here we really need the cooperation of all our readers so that, hopefully, for the next issue we can provide a bibliography of published and

unpublished dissertations and theses in the field of interpretation studies and, at the same time, we can draw up a report on present research being carried out in our respective universities. This, we feel, may well lead to further collaboration, verification of experiments and tests in different research environments and possibly even joint research projects; (c) every issue of our Newsletter will contain short articles, conference papers, book reviews and the like. For the next issue, we would ask readers to let us have their contributions (in English and French) by the 31st of March 1989; (d) there will also be a section for announcements, especially with regard to forthcoming events such as conferences and seminars but also concerning forthcoming publications, new appointments, future "concorsi" and job vacancies and miscellaneous announcements relevant to our profession and field of research.

A last word about our mailing list and the Proceedings of our Symposium on the Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Teaching Interpretation held in Trieste 18 months ago. As a result of the symposium, we have a fairly complete mailing list of the participants and others who have asked for the Proceedings, so we will automatically be sending the Newsletter to each of you. For other people who would like to be included on the mailing list, simply write to us c/o:

Scuola Superiore di Lingue Moderne
per Interpreti e Traduttori
Università degli Studi di Trieste
Via D'Alviano, 15/1
34100 Trieste, Italy.

and we will send you all future issues together with back numbers.

Now, as far as the Proceedings are concerned, many thanks to all of you who have written to us asking for copies and many apologies for the delay in publication. Unfortunately, Italian university contracts make it virtually impossible to use foreign publishers, as we originally intended, and Italian publishers tend to be very slow. All we can say is that we are doing our utmost to have the Proceedings in print as soon as possible.

So, until the next issue of the Newsletter, here in Trieste we are looking forward to having your suggestions and advice, your comments and contributions.

Laura Gran

John Dodds

(Co-ordinating Editors)