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Transferring Languages: A Career as an Interpreter/Translator

"Pomocy! Pomocy! Moja siostra została potrącona przez samochód!" The woman screams in anguish as she runs from the dark alleyway into the bright sunshine. Her sister had been hit by a car. She spoke Polish; no one in the vicinity seemed to understand. Could I be the only person who knows what she is saying? I yell to the workmen nearby, "Help this woman! Someone has been injured in a car accident!" We run alongside her as she guides us to her injured sister, where we take the procedures to save her life. I am interested in pursuing the profession of translating and interpreting, as I have researched the education needed, the duties and responsibilities required, and the job outlook available. To help people communicate, translators and interpreters transfer one language to another. Interpreters work with spoken language; translators work with written language. The most basic types of translating are simultaneous and consecutive. Simultaneous translators translate at almost the same time as the words are said, while consecutive interpreters

wait for the speaker to finish the phrase; then they translate. One must follow an ethic code which must not be violated. One must follow the rules of confidentiality with information and honesty to clients.

To become a translator or interpreter, one must effectively complete specific educational training. According to *Career Discovery Education* basic language knowledge is needed, as well as information about the country the language originated from:

Interpreters and translators must know at least two languages very well. They also need to know a great deal about the geography, culture, and history of the countries where those languages are spoken.

High school courses in English and Latin are especially helpful... (168-169)

These are the most basic things that one must know.

One must constantly develop the English language, as well as the second language. Cultures are continually transforming; the change causes new words to be commonly found in the language. Keeping up on the trends will make it easier to communicate with clients.

One must be able to speak the languages, as well as be able to read and write the languages. To develop writing skills and knowledge, one must take classes to develop grammar, principles of translation, theory of translation, and ethics of translation.

Translating and interpreting requires one to be organized with documents and such. Taking classes in typing, word processing, and public speaking makes one very well organized and prepared for the inevitable paperwork.

One must take classes to help him or her learn to use computerized translation tools. Dictionaries are not always available for one who is traveling.

If one is interested in specializing in a specific subject to translate, one must take those classes as well. One who is specialized in one or more fields is more preferable to hire and will earn a better living. If one is interested in a specific field, such as marketing, one must first receive a degree in marketing to be considered specialized in it. Some fields, such as sports, do not require much education, but one must understand the terms in both languages.

Public speaking classes help to "improve your diction and confidence as a public speaker" ("Interpreters" 61). Confidence

while speaking makes one appear professional and prepared for the job at hand.

Translators who have more experience and education are more likely to find a high-ranking, high-paying position. It is preferred for one to have a bachelors degree in translating and interpreting. It is not required that one be certified, but "employers often show preference to certified applicants" ("Interpreters" 61). One must be fluent in the language with several years of practice. There is a requirement of three tests that must be completed to receive certification or licensing. The test consists of consecutive translating, simultaneous translating, and conference-level interpreting, which must be successfully completed.

During consecutive translating, one must wait until the speaker finishes speaking before translating. During simultaneous translating, one must be able to predict the next words and translate at about the same time as the speaker is speaking. During conference-level translating, one uses either simultaneous or consecutive translating during a conference.

Translators and interpreters must know their languages well and sometimes must have a more advanced education. If one is unable to meet these essentials, one is less likely to find a

enjoyable and well-paying position. Therefore, a career as a translator requires a distinct amount and type of education.

Also, there are responsibilities and duties a translator or interpreter is required to carry out. One must have very refined listening skills as well as wonderful dictation. Careful listening is needed to catch the exact words being spoken.

One must continue learning about the changing culture of the language's origin. When new trends appear, one must know the new words that are being created, even if they are slang. It will help them communicate in the future. If one were translating for Polish clients, it would be best to know who the president of Poland is, traditional foods, and such basic information.

When one is translating or interpreting, one must never share the information that he or she has acquired. All information is shared in confidence; sharing it is against ethic code.

Flexibility regarding the hours and days one is able to work is a must. Time is of the essence for clients on vacation and work trips, so one must have excellent time management. Free time is needed if some situation were to present itself on short notice.

One must be reliable to clients and honest about one's educational training and career. Trusting one's reliability is a must, for clients must always receive correct translations. Adding or omitting words can change the meaning of a sentence; there must never be inaccuracies. If one were to specialize in a specific subject, one must be an expert in it and must understand the terms in both languages. They must be able to relay the information correctly. One must have a love for language and culture, as well and "strive to be accurate" (Matyjas).

Translators and interpreters must be confident and accurate with the language. Being unable to meet these requirements will make one seem inadequate. Thus, particular duties and responsibilities are required for translators and interpreters.

Furthermore, a career in translating and interpreting has an excellent job outlook. The world is becoming progressively more global with all the new electronics to help connect the world. People now find it easier to meet up for conferences and meetings while some are online and some face-to-face; however, there are language differences. With the rising numbers of international friendships and communications, more translators and interpreters are needed.

The number of people traveling the world has also been on the rise, especially on vacations and work trips. The developing forms of transportation make it easier to get from one place to another as more people travel.

People leave their countries since the economy is not doing too well, and jobs are scarce; therefore, many emigrate to different countries. Some do not speak the language of the new country, so they need assistance. With the rising numbers of unemployment and debt, more people are becoming interested in moving to different countries where they can prosper and raise their families with more job opportunities and financial freedom.

The world is constantly becoming more interconnected. One must be ready for a time consuming career as a interpreter and translator, including arduous travel and intelligence. Because the demand for interpreters and translators is continuously rising, the career is reliable in the future.

In conclusion, after in depth research on interpreting and translating, I believe I have found my future career. You may see me in the future, traveling the world and converting languages. Following my dreams of travel and connecting people

in a way they had not known before. *Może zobaczymy się kiedy
będę pracuję.* Maybe I will see you when I am working one day.

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