

Kääntäjä-Översättaren summaries

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IN THIS ISSUE

A translator in her author's world

Bridging Cultures. FIT World Congress in San Francisco, 1–4 August 2011

Sanasto demands additional funds for literature

Translators of patents face new challenges

Dancing with vampires

Use of translation tools

How *City of Glass* became *Lasikaupunki* in Finnish

A translator in her author's world

In her article, Alice Martin – who has translated the books on *Alice* by Lewis Carroll – writes about her study trip to Guildford, a central place in Carroll's life. The study trip included visits to sites that had been dear to Carroll as well as lectures about various phases of the author's life. The study trip revealed that the world of Carroll's books contains many references to reality. The translator also received additional clarification about some of the expressions used by the author. The study trip was a marvellous combination of light and serious 'business'. The trip was arranged by the Lewis Carroll Society.

Bridging Cultures. FIT World Congress in San Francisco, 1–4 August 2011

FIT, the International Federation of Translators, had chosen a fitting theme for its World Congress. About 630 Congress participants from all over the world gathered together at the beginning of August to follow a programme that featured more than 100 presentations. As a group, the 40 Finnish translators and interpreters were outnumbered only by their Chinese and Norwegian colleagues, and naturally also by North Americans. This 19th World Congress was organised by FIT in cooperation with ATA, the American Translators Association. This article describes the most memorable events of the Congress.

Sanasto demands additional funds for literature

Sanasto, the Finnish copyright society that promotes, supervises and manages the rights of literary copyright holders, has set up a policy group with the following aims: to obtain an appreciable increase in the appropriations set aside as compensations paid for Finnish public library lending; and to have libraries at educational and research institutions added to the sphere of compensation. Public support for many cultural sectors was increased during Finland's previous electoral term, but literature was left outside the scope of increases. The annual amounts paid in compensation for public library lending are considerable less in Finland than in the other Nordic countries. At the current level of compensation, literary works must be borrowed in great volume for rights holder to receive notable compensation. The SKTL is represented in the policy group.

Translators of patents face new challenges

In her article, Sanna Kokkonen writes about the London Agreement, which enters into force in Finland on 1 November, 2011. The purpose of the Agreement is to lower the cost of patents by reducing the translations required. Patents comprise a *description* and *claims*; the latter define the scope of protection granted by the patent. Once the Agreement has come into force, only the claims segment of European patents need to be translated. The volume of translation will drop radically because a mere 10 per cent of patent texts will be translated into Finnish.

The Finnish Patents Act is also under reform. In future, English can be chosen as the handling language of patent applications processed nationally, in which case the entire process will take place in English. When an application becomes public, the patent claims must be available also in Finnish or Swedish.

Dancing with vampires

In his article, Dieter Hermann Schmitz interviews Marika Hakola. Some years ago, simply out of interest, Hakola translated the libretto of *Tanz der Vampire*, written in German by Michael Kunze. The text inspired Hakola so much that the Master's thesis she completed in 2007 dealt with the problems encountered in translating allusions in the musical. At that time she had also compiled a singable version of the text, which ended up on stage following many revision and adaptation rounds. Legal issues, however, were the greatest obstacle on the way to the stage. This autumn the musical makes its Finnish debut at the Seinäjoki City Theatre, though with the English title, *Dance of the Vampires*.

Use of translation tools

Dominique Pivard writes in his article about the tools used by specialised translators. Approximately 80 per cent of the 200 translators who responded to a questionnaire on the topic said they used translation tools. There are several reasons why the use of translation tools has increased; for instance, the emergence of many new actors in the field and increased competition have brought about a drop in price. Despite the wide selection available, the questionnaire revealed that the respondents fell mostly into two camps as to the translation tools in use: SDL and Wordfast. The spread of pivotal independent standards has also been a positive development in the field.

How *City of Glass* became *Lasikaupunki* in Finnish

Terhi Leskinen describes how she translated the book *City of Glass* by Cassandra Clare into Finnish. The book belongs to a series of fantasies, of which Leskinen had already translated the first two novels. The article goes through the various stages, awkward points and challenges of the long translation project. During the rough translation stage, Leskinen didn't even try to produce very polished text; instead, she proceeded with a stream of consciousness technique. By contrast, during the second stage she focused on producing text that was as refined as possible. She then checked the terms and altered some sentence structures, among other things, during the third stage. Finally, the translator and the editor together went through the proofs for stylistic features. The book appeared in bookshops in August 2011, about a year after the translation process had begun.

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