

Our first ever Translator/Interpreter Café!

We had our first ever Translator/Interpreter Café on Thursday 19 April and it went so well that we wanted to share it with you all!

We gathered in the meeting room of McDonald's in Greenlane, Auckland, and had 24 members attend. The structure of the evening was:

- Half an hour of mingling and chatting
- Introduction to the evening
- One hour of discussing three table topics in groups
- A quick chat about how the evening had gone, with feedback

Interesting points came out of the table topics. As a summary, this is what we noted down:

Q1: What tools and resources do you use?

Translators: MS Word, SDL Trados (various versions), MemoQ, Dragon Naturally Speaking, Google (videos and other resources), online glossaries, Lexilogos, Proz and Kudoz, newspapers, social media, auto spell check and grammar tools.

Interpreters: Knowledge of vocabulary, listening skills, memory, concentration, video and audio, dictionaries, note taking, ability to stop speaker and ask for shorter sentences, extensive reading and research, understanding choice of interpreter from client's perspective for sensitive cases/culture in both legal and health settings.

Q2: How do you deal with sensitive situations?

Translators: Maintain confidentiality, check any contracts binding you, ensure IT security.

Interpreters: Stay professional, show no emotions, stay focused on the job, be calm, stay alert, ask for a pre-session meeting to understand the client you are assisting, consistent voice (volume), body language, be polite and know cultural aspects, eye contact, firmness, remain detached and focus on interpreting.

Q3: How do you keep your skills up to date?

Attend meetings, exchange ideas, stay informed, read in both languages, keep up to date with news, talk to professionals, join language groups, attend workshops and seminars, socialise with local kiwis, professional development courses, attend events where interpreters are used, do proof reading to learn how others translate.

The feedback after the event was very positive. Some suggested having a targeted "Ask your question" time after the mingling but before the table topic discussions, where people can come along with a specific question (possibly an issue they need help or ideas on) and put it to the group. We will trial this at the next café, which we hope to hold in early July (stay tuned for details!). This would be limited to two people per café, to allow enough time.

Discussions on the night were very enthusiastic and we found that the venue's acoustics were not the best for such a chatty meeting so we may look to change the location later. The committee will discuss this after the AGM in August.

Let us know if you have any ideas or questions. We look forward to seeing you next time!

Kathryn

Auckland Branch Committee Member