TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSLATION

The Profile of Beginning Language Professionals in the Digital Age

1st Edition

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INTRODUCTION

This book is the result of a ten-week online class I started teaching back in 2010 as part of the Professional Certificate in English/Spanish Translation and Interpretation offered by the University of California San Diego Extension. Entitled "Tools and Technology in Translation," the purpose of the class is to provide practical advice about the technology and business side of our industry, thus complementing a very diversified curriculum that offers language-specific classes, theory and practice in translation, interpreting, sight translation, and different sessions that address specialized knowledge, such as business, legal and criminal proceedings, education, community, internal medicine and specialty medical areas, and simultaneous, consecutive, and court interpreting.

I myself studied towards this certificate between 2005 and 2008 and benefited from the great variety of theory and hands-on classes offered by the program. When the time came for Extension to expand the certificate and accommodate the demands and expectations of a more diversified demographic, they identified the need to offer a class that would focus on the routine of language professionals and share ideas on how to become more efficient by organizing resources, implementing tools to complete daily tasks, developing marketing strategies, and learning more about Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT).

And that was how "Tools and Technology in Translation" was conceived. I've been thoroughly enjoying the experience of teaching it and sharing some of the lessons I've learned—sometimes the hard way, by trial and error—so students can have a broader perspective of what it takes to set up their own language business or become part of a translation or interpreting team.

I've also learned a lot from my students, who are individuals coming from different walks of life, with a diversified professional and cultural background. They've opened my eyes

to issues that beginners face nowadays, which more seasonal professionals might take for granted after years in the business or forget to reflect upon during their current fast-paced routine.

While the online class and, consequently this book, is mostly geared towards translators—those of us who work with the written language only—many of the ideas shared here will also prove to be useful to interpreters, especially those trying to break into the field or develop their business by marketing their services to a wider variety of potential clients.

In short, the main purpose of this book is to lift the curtain, look into what happens behind the scenes, and **address a crucial question that beginner translators and interpreters always ask themselves: "Do I have what it takes?"**

As we all know, being bilingual isn't enough to start working as a professional translator and/or interpreter and, throughout the UC San Diego Extension Program, instructors make all possible efforts to identify the niche that students could consider when putting their language skills to good use and not only build a solid business for themselves, but also help clients achieve their goals, in addition to serving the community as well.

As a secondary goal, I hope the contents shared here are useful to help established translators and interpreters, as well as educators, to **get a better idea on the profile of newcomers in the language industry, so we can better manage our mentoring efforts and help strengthen the T&I community**.

Rafa Lombardino
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