



Freelancer spotlight

Gain inspiration from other translator's stories

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Language pairs:
EN-PL
PL-EN

SDL*

Why did you get into translation?

The translation industry gave me the chance to still be professionally active while having children. As a translator, I can use and expand my knowledge of languages to work from home. That gives me a sense of financial independence and self-fulfilment.

What, in your opinion, makes a good translator?

A good translator is a person who loves what he/she does. I am aware that it may sound like a bit of cliché, but it is a case when it comes to translation. It is said that translators tend to be introverts, but to be honest most of the translators that I know are rather opposite. I think that a good translator should have a constant need to learn new things and be interested in personal growth. Additionally, time management skills are essential as they help deal with the workload without unnecessary stress about deadlines.

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Do you have any suggestions of first steps for people new to freelance translating?

Don't be a stranger! Networking and getting to know other translators gives an exceptional chance not only to get to know interesting people, but also to learn all the important bits from the industry. You can ask your colleagues for help and support whenever you need it.

Where would you advise freelancers, who are new to the industry, to look for help?

1. It can be useful to search for translators' groups on social media, such as: Facebook, LinkedIn, etc., where new entrants may find many tips and advice regarding the prices, problematic situations and help from experienced translators.
2. It is worth checking the major translation companies and agencies, to see whether they are looking for new talents with your language pair.
3. Do not give up and constantly educate yourself.

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Any hints and tips for a successful career in translation?

From my point of view, there are three main factors that will help a translator at the beginning of their professional journey – patience, hard work and great organizational skills. One should not be discouraged by difficult beginnings- it all comes with time.

How can technology help?

Nowadays, technology not only helps, but as far as I am concerned it is essential in order to achieve success in translation industry. If you want to be competitive you should use a CAT tool, otherwise, you may struggle to find enough translation orders to earn your living. On the other hand, if your workload becomes high you may not be able to meet all the projects without help from a technological tool.

Any specific SDL Trados Studio features or functionality you most like using or find of benefit?

I highly appreciate the layout of the software, as well as the elements that allow translators to manage their projects in an organized manner. I also find the quality checker to be a crucial feature that helps me improve the quality of my projects. The possibility to create and reuse (at any time) my translations from translation memories considerably increases my productivity- making SDL Trados Studio an integral part of my workflow. At this stage of my career, I cannot imagine working without it.

Any SDL Trados Studio hints and tips you might like to share?

Be consistent in building your translation memories and termbases. If you encounter any unclear feature, you should use information published on the SDL Trados Studio website, ask your colleagues on the SDL Community or contact the developers of the software. I would also recommend signing up for a course on using Studio, where you can get to know Studio better and socialize with other translators.

Any support routes you have found particularly useful to get started with SDL Trados Studio?

At the beginning of my translation career, I found the SDL Trados website very useful, as it includes lots of advice regarding translation technology. There are many educational sections through which you can find self-study materials. You can also prove your knowledge to your potential employers by passing an SDL certification, which not only is highly recognized in the translation industry in Europe, but also in the rest of the world!

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by SDL Trados**

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translation software
**- SDL Trados Studio -
for free!**