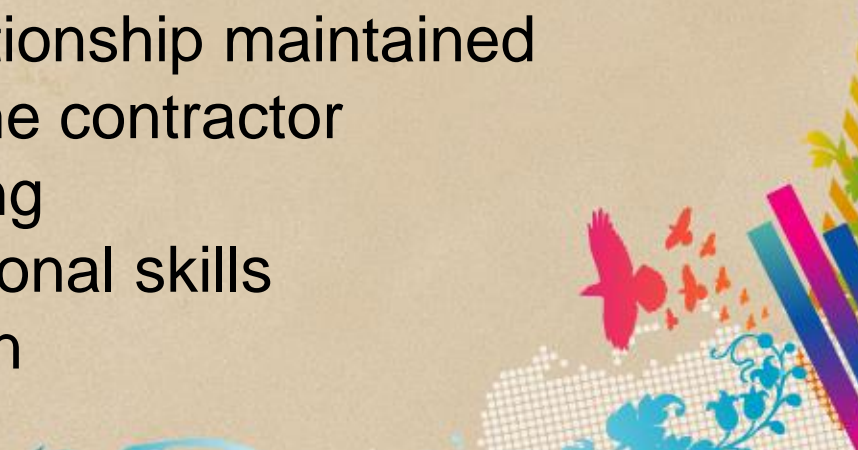


Freelance translation and interpreting in Latvia

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Introduction

- A relatively new field in Latvia's economy – flourished since 1991.
- The standard of the translator's profession envisages that a translator:
 - can translate in written form texts
 - is competent in a particular field (or fields) and is able to use terminology of the field.
 - is able to edit his/her texts and use computer technology and Internet.



The notion of freelance translator in Latvian

- Freelance translators and interpreters in Latvia are called „ārštata tulkotājs un ārštata tulks”.



Regulation of professional conduct

- The professional conduct of freelance translators is regulated by a document “The standard of a profession” affirmed by The Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia.



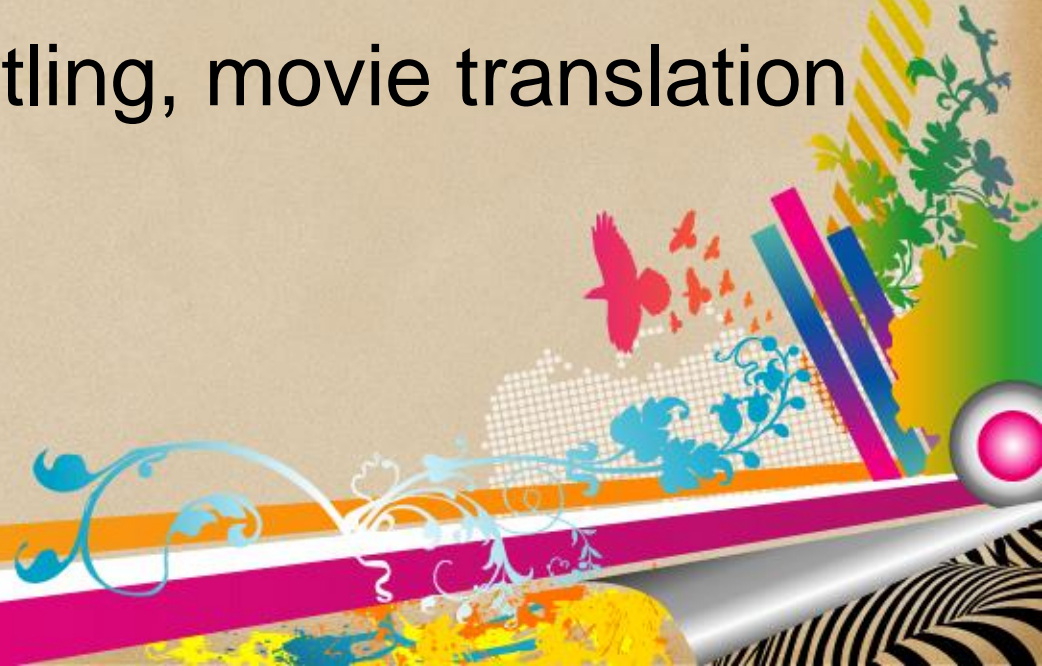
Contracting requirements

- Contracting requirements for freelance translators usually is
 - university degree, experience (at least 2 years),
 - specialization in particular areas
 - knowledge of CAT tools (Trados, MemoQ etc.)
 - self-employed status.



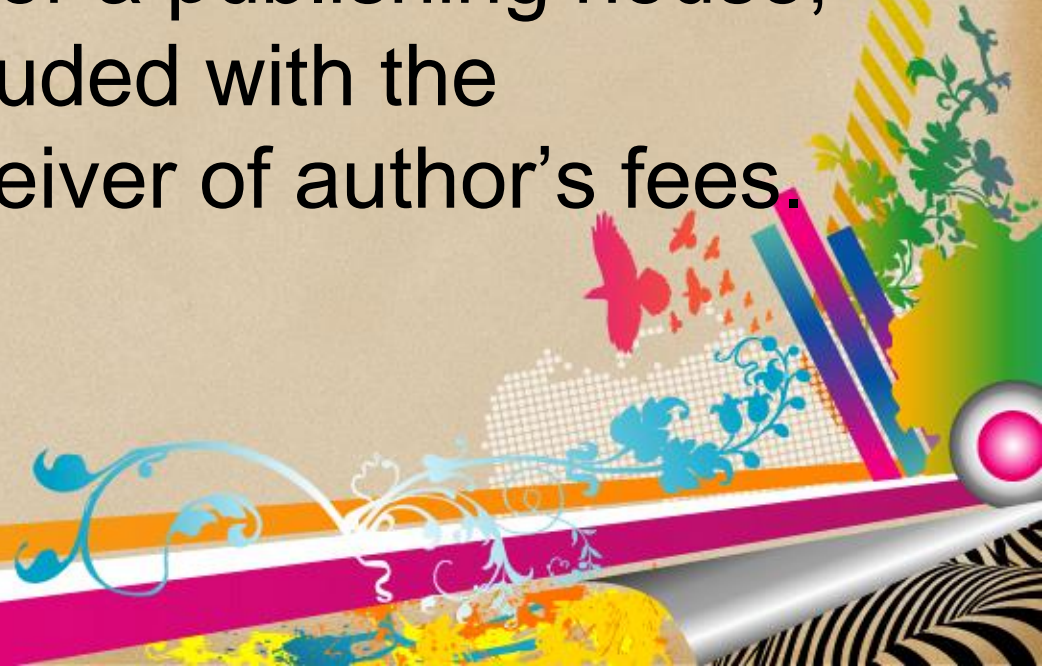
The main contractors

- Agencies as Skrivanek, Nordtext, Baltic Media, Tilde and other.
- In the field of literary translation – Zvaigzne ABC, Jumava and other.
- In the field of subtitling, movie translation – SDI Media.



How is professional relationship maintained

- By concluding contracts.
- The translator usually has to be a self-employed person.
- When translating for a publishing house, a contract is concluded with the translator as a receiver of author's fees.



Feedback

- The contractors usually provide feedback if the translation is inadequate, if it does not comply with the quality requirements.



Advantages of freelancing

- You are your own boss
- Flexibility
- Control of income and expense
- Global perspective
- Networking



"I WORK FROM HOME!"



STARTS WORKING
WELL PAST NOON

UNWASHED

"DESK" →

FORGOT
HOW TO
TALK TO
HUMANS →

← SAME
SHIRT 3
DAYS IN
A ROW



COWORKERS



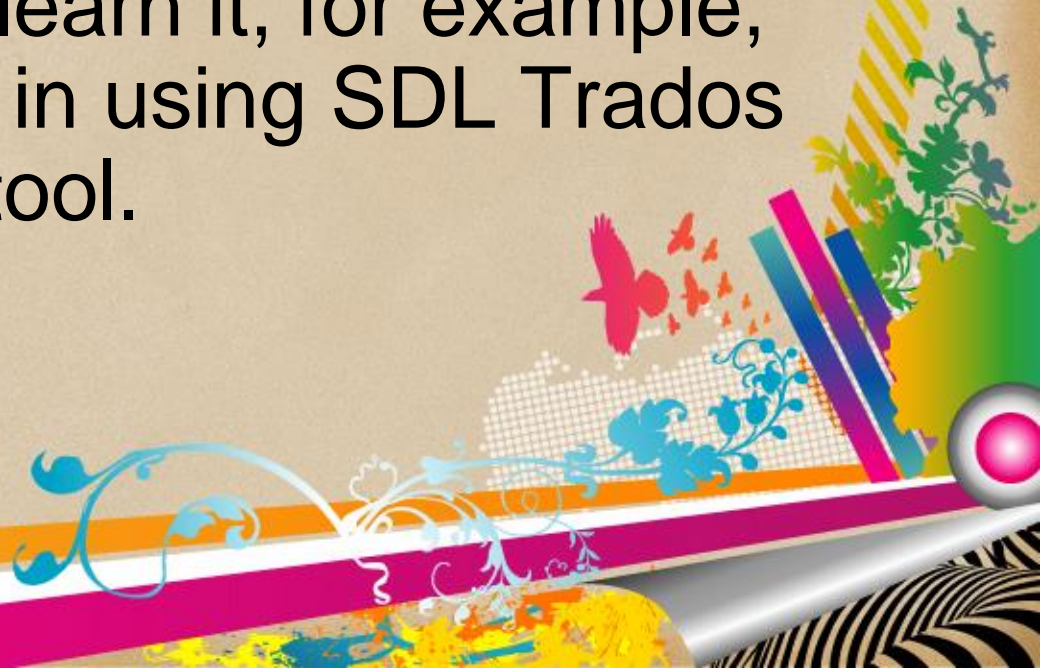
LUNCH
BREAK

← UNIFORM

HANNAH FOR
HILLAM BUZZFEED

Developing professional skills

- A translator may and should broaden the field of expertise – to become an expert also in another sector.
- The translator without the skills of CAT tools may want to learn it, for example, become an expert in using SDL Trados or any other CAT tool.



Useful information

- Latvijas tulku un tulkotāju biedrība www.lttb.lv (The society of Latvian interpreters and translators)
- The website for freelance translators www.proz.com



Conclusions

- The freelance translator's job is demanding but also rewarding and intellectually exciting.
- A key factor is to be in constant motion, being able to transmit confidence and professionalism.

