781-136-66-26 Maja Wagner-Nawrocka



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linguist, translator, editor, and writer

LANGUAGES

Polish: native speaker. English: near native. Russian: intermediate. Hebrew: beginner.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Information Science. Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland. Graduated with honors (4.8/5.0), 1996.

Master of Arts in Translation and Intercultural Studies. Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain, 2011.

Diploma of Advanced Studies in Translation and Intercultural Studies. (URV, Tarragona, Spain, 2006.

EDUCATION – OTHER

Breaking into Print. Diploma of completion of a professional program of instruction in writing, Long Ridge Writers Group, 2000.

A Certificate in Pedagogy and Methodology. Teacher Training Centre, Warsaw University, 2001.

Cognitive Grammar. A course by Ronald Langacker, European Training Programme, UK Campus with SIL, 2004.

Evaluation in Education. Institute for Social Studies Warsaw University, 2001.

TEFL Certificate. International Teacher Training Institute, Cairo, Egypt. 1991.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Tenured teacher | Teacher Training College, Radom, Poland

September 1998 – March 2015 (the college was phased out due to the changes in the academic education system)

Subjects: Introduction to Linguistics, History of English, Practical Phonetics, Composition, Descriptive Grammar, Writing

Employment: Tenure

Other responsibilities: Designing and managing the college website, designing the system for creating the college schedule for classes, creating college schedule every year.

FREELANCE PROJECT WORK

Sundog (previously *Inkwell*), owner

September 1998 – present (full time free agent since 2015)

Freelance translator, project manager, linguist, consultant, editor, writer

My first degree in Linguistics and Information Science reflected my interests in both humanities and science, and that is why, after several years in translation of mostly of scientific research texts, I expanded into project management, linguistic validation, disaster checks, and cultural consulting. With the development of technology, I expanded further into working on natural language processing, including projects related to speech recognition and synthesis, annotation, phonetic transcription, grammar development, and morphology. I also pursued my writing interests by participation in projects related to writing, proofreading, and copy editing.

1) Project management for linguistic and cultural validation

As a manager for linguistics validation projects for Mapi Institute in Lyon, France, I was responsible for the Polish harmonization in the clusters of multi-language localization of medical research tools for doctors and medical professionals. I ensured the smooth coordination of my local team (translators, back-translator), recruited doctors for medical consultations, and performed in-depth interviews with patients while both safeguarding the well-being of patients and accomplishing the cognitive debriefing stage for each project.

Further, I ensured compliance with the guidelines, reconciling independent translations of the tool, harmonizing translations according to the guidelines, which included evaluating back-translations, proofreading, medical reviews, and providing reports for every stage of validation with suggestions for changes. The final copy I delivered at the end of each project was a polished research tool fully compatible with the aims of the project and with the Polish cultural and linguistic settings. (A letter of recommendation from MAPI Institute is available on request.)

2) Translation

My interest and educational background in science and research allowed me to fill a niche in the Polish translation market by providing top quality translations into English of texts related to engineering, science, humanities, and other research texts. Even though this was my main avenue for translation for many years, naturally, I expanded into virtually every type of text in the 20+ years of translating, both into English and into Polish.

Additionally, I have done post-editing (MTPE) and proofreading, and moreover, I was a lead copy editor for a translation project of 400+ children's books (fiction and non-fiction).

3) Brand name checks and cultural feedback

I have provided many in-depth analyses as well as quick disaster checks for potential brand names in terms of linguistic and cultural suitability. These projects are an important stage for introducing a product or service in a given locale by preventing negative user/customer experience for the marketed products.

4) Natural Language Processing

The increase in NLP projects for freelancers and my background in theoretical linguistics provided a natural direction to expand my experience. These projects have included the following:

- a) phonetic transcription: reviewing automated transcription for NLP and providing phonological rules for problem areas, providing phonetic transcription in specific systems (more than 10 different transcription systems), providing phonological rules for automated transcription,
- b) speech synthesis and recognition output review,
- c) tokenizer input/output review,
- d) automated phonetic transcription review and correction,
- e) automated text transcription review and correction,
- f) annotation including all types of linguistic annotation (discourse, PoS, phonetic, semantic) for AI learning systems, disambiguation, creating rules for a PoS tagger, annotating training corpus, etc.,
- g) stemmer for Polish.

5) Writing and editing

In addition to my published work listed below, I have written several quality articles on a variety of topics thanks to my good research skills and writing ability. Recently, I completed a project as a lead copy editor for Polish on a large project involving translation of a 400+ short books for children. Based on my work and input as a lead editor for translations, I was asked to provide a fact-checking stage in the process of the creation of the original books.

PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH AND POLISH

For a linguist, technical and creative skills complement each other, and I have endeavored to cultivate my writing abilities through education and production of my own original writing. Below is a list of my published works, among which my favorite is the short story published in the literary magazine for teenagers *Cicada*, USA.

- 1. "The History of Trialing in Poland" *ISDS Magazine* (International Sheep Dog Society, UK). 2014
- 2. "Backbone" short story in *Cicada* (Carus Publishing USA). 2004.
- 3. "Jonah's Joy" in Snowy Egret vol. 65, no. 1. (USA). 2002.
- 4. "The Modelling of the Mental Lexicon in Young Children" Lingua Posnaniensis - 39, pp. 129-143. 1997.
- 5. "Eric. H. Lenneberg's Theory of the Biological Foundations of Language a Précis." Glottodidactica. 1996.
- 6. "Komplementarność greckiego i hebrajskiego sposobu przedstawiania rzeczywistości" *Investigationes Linguisticae,* IV, pp. 83-91. 1997
- 7. I wrote a number of commissioned articles for web content development including financing and migration in Europe (2016-2017), sports equipment, and I provided photographs and was an assisting author for the Cairo cultural section of the Middle East Times (1990-1991).

FARMING

Since 1999, I have owned a small farm where my husband and I raise sheep and poultry.

OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Agriculture: farming, shepherding, and sheepdog training Arts: photography, writing, mural paining, and patchwork