

In 1909 Chief Justice Piggott of Hongkong made some observations in the case of Kwok Leung [(1909) H.K.L.R. 161] on (not) interpreting the evidence in criminal trials.

One word more,
which is necessary in
consequence of what the
learned Attorney General
said with regard to his
experience in other
Colonies.

He referred to cases
in Cyprus, where
prisoners are of many
nationalities, Turk,
Greek, English, and I
know not what others;

and he said it was *not* the *practice to interpret the evidence* in the Courts in Cyprus, and that, if it were, *great expenditure of time and money* would be the result.

I can only say that
in the trial of human
beings for crimes, the
law of England requires
the *utmost consideration*
for the accused,

and the *most*
scrupulous
exactness in the
conduct of
proceedings,

and that time
and money are
nothing
compared with
liberty and life.

I have little doubt that the law, as we have laid it down, unless a higher tribunal says that it is wrong, will be acted upon throughout the King's dominions.

Which brings us to
the following questions:

- What are we going to take away with us from this “foundation meeting” of EULITA?

And what will EULITA
bring us the participants
and the residents of and
visitors to the various
countries of the
European Union?

- Many years ago in Vancouver, I gave a keynote address at the second Critical Link conference entitled “Plus c’est la même chose...?”

ÇA CHANGE?

- Ça changera?
- C'est la même chose?
- Que ce qui va changer?
- Qui va changer quoi?
- Etcetera.....

As they (used to?) say in
England, “answers on a
postcard...” Today, it
should be: email me
your thoughts @
RuthMorris13@gmail.com

In the Manitoba appeal *Robin v. College de St-Boniface* [(1984) 15 D.L.R. (4th) 198], Chief Justice

Monnin said: “The ideal situation would be to deliver reasons in the language of the litigants but....

- ... courts are not committed to ideal situations but rather *to practical and fair dispositions*

If it's confession time

then I must make mine: given the fact that, as the late Cardinal Lustiger/Lustiger once said at a conference where I was interpreting, “Je ne connais pas encore le secret de la bilocation....”

I have not been
physically and mentally
present at every single
session of this
fascinating event.

- But I have got a number of quotable quotes which I will doubtless refer to in future writings.

For example

- “les miracles de la technologie”
(Commissioner Barrot)

- “Interestingly, the same subjects come up over and over again” (Erik Hertog).

Translators and interpreters working in legal settings... do not always enjoy the prestige and the respect they deserve.

(Prof. Maurizio Viezzi)

Nor is the crucial,
decisive importance of
their work fully
recognised and
appreciated.

This latter one is
reminiscent of appeal
judges writing about
interpreting issues:

“There is surprisingly little
reference to this subject
in previous cases”

... greater prestige and respect will translate into

the opportunity to *demand and obtain better working conditions*. Which, in turn, will mean *better quality* in the services provided by translators and interpreters in legal settings.

Better quality in T&I services
in legal settings means *fairer
proceedings*.

EULITA is not just a professional
association – it is an instrument
for the *promotion and full
implementation of democracy* in
our countries.

- “Efforts of many over many years”
- “Enduring persistence” of Erik Hertog who “has militated for years” ...

(Ann D’Haen DG Interpretation)

- “We give voice to others but we have found it confoundingly difficult to find our own voice...
- This is why it’s important to speak as one
- Training, credentialing, administering and supervision

Nancy Festinger, NAJIT/SDNY

- “New dawn” in legal interpreting and translation (Ann D’Haen)
- Training = key to professionalization = key to quality = key to visibility of our professions and in due course to their recognition. (Christiane Driesen, AIIIC Court Interpreting Committee)

Commissioner Orban

quoted from the
executive summary of
the Reflection Forum on
multilingualism and
interpreter training:

- “... disparity and *patchy provision* of legal interpreting throughout EU”

- To speed access of linguistic support
- To create a proactive approach
- To improve efficiency
- To maximise internal resources (Michael Brooker, Met)

System declared “unfit for purpose”

- Lack of availability
- Confusion of tasks
- Rising costs
- Insufficient management oversight
- Traditional working practices

Prisons and language issues

- *Patchy picture* leads to inequalities, hampers access to treatment programmes, emotional consequences (isolation, frustration, even rage...)

(Aida Martinez-Gomez Gomez)

Catherine Heard's paper gave examples of British prisoners in Spain including in prison:

- “Justice cannot stop at the prison gate”

There was great applause
for the questioner who
commented on the need
for training for
interpreters *and for*
judges:

- *“In this profession, you must be very humble and be aware of your limits and try to overcome them”*

The Metropolitan Police Force has *not a budget but a spend*: an extra 750,000 expected in London by 2016 - fastest growing city in world after Tokyo

- “I make no apologies for *cutting the fat out*”

Amanda Clement of the Met:

- “It’s early days and things will come out in the wash – many things are coming out in the wash that Michael and I listen to daily.”

- “This event served as an eye opener for the judge” – Bodil Martinsen about the monitoring of the quality of interpreter performance.

Reasons for using remote interpreting / video conference interpreting

- “Cost saving exercise”
- “speed up legal proceedings”
- “convenient for prisoners”
- “more efficient use of resources”
- “reduced interpreter travel and waiting time”
- “to overcome interpreter shortages”
- “timely conclusion of cases”

- How far have we come?
- Where are we going?
- How are we going to get there?

We need friends in high places who will push for the addressing of our concerns for the sake of the improved administration of criminal justice systems

- We and our associations must constantly advocate for *quality* interpreting and translation in legal systems

- We must try to educate the legal professionals to understand that we are an integral part of the system

- We must expect the worst and hope – and strive - for (the) best *practice!*

Thank you all
for caring and
keep up the
good work!