

Session 1: Summary of the discussion

Mr Rishworth, Head of Translation at Shell, The Hague, stated there were no problems with the Shell network facsimile between Holland and England, and wondered why people at the Conference complained of the poor quality of facsimile transmission within the United Kingdom.

Mr Jones, of British Telecom, said this was probably due to the fact that many of the machines were old. Facsimile copies are getting more reliable as more new machines are installed. The lines are improving with digital switching but there are still errors. It might help if transmission speed were reduced, as this gives a higher noise tolerance. Facsimile machines do have a feature whereby lines of text are repeated if errors are noticed, however.

Mr Fry, member of the committee of AITC (International Association of Conference Translators), stated that there seemed to be a difference of opinion where Mr Hayes had said desktop publishing was not for the translator and Mr Jones said it was. He wished to know how the translator would be compensated if he/she took over the typesetting function. Might there not be a tendency for the publisher to offload the editorial function onto the translator, making him/her responsible for translation over a wide area?

Mr Reisenberger, of Arrow Translations, said the translator should go towards electronic mail and not get involved in desktop publishing. It was pointless for the freelancer to design a beautiful layout when the translation company would destroy it anyway when amending the text.

RAPPORTEUR

Patricia O'Shaughnessy, Senior translator, Bayer UK Ltd.