

Caduceus



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CONTENT: Part Two

- 13 Resources
- 23 Interpreters at Work
- 26 Book Review
- 27 Glossarium
- 29 From the Administrator

Best
Wishes
for
2006

PAIN

EXPERIENCES

CAUSES

DIAGNOSIS

MANAGEMENT

TERMINOLOGY

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Searching Translation Units on the World Wide Web Through Co-occurrence Maximization

Original text in French. English translation
by Dr. Gilberto Lacchia.

Introduction

This article describes a simple procedure to help translate technical terms or uncommon expressions by using a web search engine. This procedure does not substitute a terminology research with specialized dictionaries or other documentation. Very often, however, the translator does not have access to these resources: on one hand, technical dictionaries are expensive, rarely updated and do not contain idiomatic expressions much appreciated by many authors. On the other hand short translation deadlines do not generally allow a thorough documentary research, even on the Internet. Therefore, although a true terminology research is optimal in principle, it is hardly practical in the real life and translators have to turn to more expeditious solutions.

The procedures we present here take advantage of the possibilities offered by the web search engines and are based on a simple principle: **co-occurrence maximization**. This principle consists of searching webpages containing both the term and its translation. The higher the number of pages containing the two terms, the more accurate the translation. Finding such co-occurrences may seem unlikely, but given the impressive number of documents indexed by search engines (nearly 10 billion of pages by Google in 2005), including many multilingual sites, these co-occurrences may be found for the majority of technical terms, and are most often suited for a statistical analysis. We will also describe a simple control technique, the **usage test**, that allows to validate the co-occurrence search results and to avoid the pitfalls caused by erroneous translations found on the Internet.

We will use practical examples to demonstrate how the co-occurrence maximization may help solving translation problems quickly and effectively. While we have used the Google search engine, the protocol also works with any general search engine such as AltaVista, MSN search, Yahoo, etc.

When the translator thinks to know the best translation

Example: « **Smart card** » EN>FR

This is the simplest case: we need the translation of a term and we have some ideas (not necessarily right) about a possible translation. A co-occurrence search allows to quickly validate our hypotheses.

We need a translation in French of the term «smart cards». The first translation that comes to mind is «cartes intelligentes». Let's apply our first **co-occurrence search** on these two terms. We search with Google both expressions:

«smart cards» «cartes intelligentes»

For a phrase search, it is essential to use quotation marks. We obtain a Google page beginning with:

Results 1 - 10 of about 132

This means that 132 pages or documents contain both terms «smart cards» and «cartes intelligentes». It is an encouraging result, but before accepting this translation, we have to execute a **usage test**. The purpose of this test is to verify that the term appears with a frequency proportional to the representation of its language on the Web. **Table 1** lists the average number of pages found with a search engine for a given term in different languages when this term is found 100 times in English.

Table 1: Representation of languages on the World Wide Web (English = 100). This table reports the average number of Google occurrences found with a sample of terms or expressions in French, Spanish, German and Italian, when the equivalent English term or expression is found 100 times. Thanks to Gilberto Lacchia for the Italian and medical terms

	EN	FR	ES	DE	IT
Common terms or expressions (average on 8 terms)	100	9	6	16	2
Medical/technical terms or expressions (average on 22 terms)	100	6	4	7	2

Thus, a common term found 100 times in English has a French equivalent only 9 times or a Spanish equivalent only 6 times. This means that a French term will be found about 10 times less commonly than its English translation. This is only an average number and in this study we will identify some exceptions, but as a rule the translator should be suspicious when finding a major deviation from this proportion: the chosen translation may be wrong.

Let's see how does the expression «cartes intelligentes» performs in the usage test:

«cartes intelligentes»

Results 1 - 10 of about 632

«smart Cards»

Results 1 - 10 of about 1 040 000

There are two alarming points in these results. First, the number of the French occurrences is not ten times lower than the English ones as expected, but 1500 times lower! Second, the number of co-occurrences (132) is not too different from the number of French occurrences (632). This indicates that authors reading the English term «smart card» are inclined to use the translation «carte intelligente». A translation error can be suspected.

This is probably an Anglicism and, in the context of this exercise, where the translator looks for a confirmation of her/his suppositions, we now admit that the translation «carte à puce» comes to the translator's mind. Let's try the usage test:

«cartes à puce»

Results 1 - 10 of about 137 000

This is a much more satisfying result. The term frequency in French is about 13% of the English term, close to the expected 10%. As a last verification, we will search the co-occurrences:

«cartes à puce» «smart cards»

Results 1 - 10 of about 1 330

That is ten times more than the co-occurrences «cartes intelligentes» + «smart cards». This is a strong confirmation that the term «carte à puce» is much more appropriate.

Taking into account the language representation on the Web

Example: « Informatique » FR>EN

In this second example we would like to translate into English the term «informatique». The first English term that may come to mind is «informatics». First of all, let's search the co-occurrences:

informatique informatics

Results 1 - 10 of about 86 000

Again, this is an encouraging result. But what about the usage test?

informatique

Results 1 - 10 of about 50 000 000

informatics

Results 1 - 10 of about 19 500,000

This is a suspicious result: the English term is less used than the French one, while it should be 10 times more frequent. Actually, the word «informatique» is a French invention, only recently introduced in English. The common English term is «computer science». This hypothesis can be verified with the co-occurrences:

informatique «computer science»

Results 1 - 10 of about 232 000

This is a better result than the 86000 co-occurrences found with «informatics». It could be objected though that 86000 is not a negligible number, showing that the word «informatics» is now currently used in English. Let's try the usage test:

«computer science»

Results 1 - 10 of about 69 300 000

So, «computer science» is a more used term than «informatics».

¹ Thanks to Gilberto Lacchia for the Italian and medical terms

Oddly enough, however, the term is not found 10 times more than the French equivalent «informatique», but almost in the same proportion. This time the explanation is not a translation error. The French term “*informatique*”, instead, describes two concepts: the scientific discipline and the qualifying equivalent of «computer», hence its wider usage. The translator's judgement remains essential to make a decision in such circumstances.

Adding context and mining a multilingual website

Example: «**Conserves de fruits**» FR>EN

The previous examples were relatively simple cases where the translator had a reasonable intuition about the best translation. Now, let's see how the co-occurrences search can help the translator when (s)he does not have a hypothesis about the translation but is familiar with the context for the term.

We must translate in English a French catalogue of food products. What is the translation of «conserves de fruits»? Let's try with the first expression that comes to mind:

«conserves de fruits» «fruit preserves»

Results 1 - 10 of about 13

This low number of occurrences is worrying. Let's try the usage test:

«conserves de fruits»

Results 1 - 10 of about 3720

«fruit preserves»

Results 1 - 10 of about 3220

The English expected results were in the order of 30000 hits. This is enough to consider this a bad translation. Assume we do not have the least idea of another possible translation. What is the next step in such a case? A **context research** should be carried out.

The searched terms should be associated to a word that we hope to find associated in the target language, e.g. a fruit name: “*strawberry*”.

«conserves de fruits» strawberry

The following is a screenshot of the result page:



Our goal is now to identify, in the websites we have found, a French text associated to its English translation. The fifth document, entitled «Agricultural analyses and design» is a bilingual document, as appears by the bilingual heading. We open the document and, with the command «CTRL-F», we locate the phrase «conserves de fruits». We will find the following sentence:

L'industrie de préparation de produits horticoles est plus orientée à la production d'une variété de jus de fruits (fruits de la passion, ananas ...) et les **conserves de fruits** (confiture, pommades).

If the English translation of this sentence is present within the document, we should be able to find the translation of the other words too. For example, let's look for the translation of «confiture», that we know: «jam». Indeed, we find «jam» below in the context:

The horticulture processing industry is mostly confined to the production of several fruit juices (passion fruit, pineapple) and fruit preserves (**jams**, jellies).

This same sentence brings us to the translation of «conserves de fruits» with «fruit preserves». Let's verify this translation with the usage test:

« fruit preserves »

Results 1 - 10 of about 71 800

That is to say, 20 times more than «conserves de fruits»: this is a more satisfying result than the one with «fruit conserves».

However, it should be noted that another valid translation, «canned fruits», gives 99,700 hits. We missed it because we were satisfied with the first occurrence found: we could have found this second solution with the analysis of some additional documents. As always, the translation quality depends on the time a translator is willing to spend on this work and by her/his intrinsic knowledge.

Avoiding mistakes with the usage test

Example: « **Produits bio** » FR>EN

«Produits bio»: this is a new well known French term, whose most obvious translation «bio products» is incorrect. Here is the evidence:

«produits bio»

Results 1 - 10 of about 89 000

«bio products»

Results 1 - 10 of about 75 400

Clearly, there are not enough «bio products» and our suspicion becomes a certainty after looking at the result page.



All the websites are linked to the biomedical or chemical industry: nothing to share with the French concept of «bio» product! And yet the research of co-occurrences «bio products» and «produits bio» gives 27 hits. This is probably the number of erroneous translations.

To find the right translation we need again to search a bilingual text containing the right term. For example, let's try the word «bread»:

« produits bio » bread

Results 1 - 10 of about 525

Google™

YAHOO!®

MSN

altavista™

HOTBOT

The following is a screenshot of the result page:



Now we need to find a website containing the French term and its translation. We have established that a false friend is used: for safety it is advisable to filter out all the websites that could be realized by French-speaking authors. Therefore, we should not consider the «.fr» or the «.be» domains. The last website of the page catches our attention. The URL is:

<http://www.royle-int.co.uk/fr/products.html>

According to the domain, «.uk», the website is an English one. We note that the address contains «/fr», and this suggest a version in French. Let's open the page found with the search engine. With the Find function (CTRL-F) we locate immediately the expression «produits bio» in the following context:

	Nourriture mexicaine	Tortillas surgelés, enchilladas, burritos etc
	Produits bio	Céréales, biscuits, farine etc
	Snacks	Chips, cacahuètes

Now, how could we find the English translation of this web page? Many multilingual websites are organized according to a rational hierarchy, with a different directory for each language, indicated by « /fr » for French, « /uk », « /en » or « /eng » for English, « /es » for Spanish, etc.. However, it is possible to find websites where the main language is in no particular directory, whereas only the translations in other languages have a special

directory. There is no absolute rule and the different possibilities should be tried. In this case, the address with the directory «/uk» ...

<http://www.royle-int.co.uk/uk/products.html>

... produces an error message. We thus try an address without a directory name:

<http://www.royle-int.co.uk/products.html>

... and we find the English version of the site. We quickly locate the part corresponding to “produits bio”:

	Mexican food	Frozen tortillas, enchiladas, burritos etc.
	Organic products	Organic cereals, biscuits, flour
	Snacks	Crisps, nuts

The translation of the expression is «organic products». Let's verify its usage:

«organic products»

Results 1 - 10 of about 734 000

... that is to say 8 times more than “produits bio” in French, which is confirmed by the co-occurrence:

«organic products» «produits bio»

Results 1 - 10 of about 171

We have the best translation!

Direct search of source term in the target language

Example: « **Le cachet de la poste faisant foi** » FR>EN

«Le cachet de la poste faisant foi» is a frequently used expression by the French administration. For an estimation of its usage, it should be searched as a phrase:

«le cachet de la poste faisant foi»

Results 1 - 10 of about 48 000

An impressive result for a 7-word expression! This means that we should find a corresponding English expression used about 500.000 times. Unfortunately we are at a complete loss regarding a similar expression: we need to conduct a context search. The English word «post», however, is too generic (Washington Post, post-doc...) and not limited to the English language (post-opérateur). Let's try the word «stamp» that could be associated to «cachet».

«le cachet de la poste faisant foi» stamp

Results 1 - 10 of about 95

After a quick look at the first pages found, it is possible to find many «post marked stamp» or «according to post stamp», but these are often French sites and we should be alert:

«post marked stamp»

Results 1 - 10 of about 31

We are far from 500.000 hits. With a more thorough exam of the bilingual websites we find «postmarked stamp». The usage test is far better:

«postmarked stamp»

Results 1 - 10 of about 64 600

With so many occurrences, this is perhaps an acceptable English translation, but we are nevertheless far from the expected count. Moreover, the co-occurrence is disheartening:

«postmarked stamp» «le cachet de la poste faisant foi»

Result 1 - 1 of 1

The bilingual websites do not seem to bring a satisfying solution: so what else? Let's try to find new websites **searching directly in the target language**. With the advanced search options we should set the search engine to find only websites in the target language, English in this case:

Google Advanced Search

Find results with all of the words with the exact phrase with at least one of the words without the words

Language Return pages written in English

File Format Only return results of the file format any format

Date Return web pages updated in the anytime

Then we search the French expression alone:

«le cachet de la poste faisant foi»

In this way the search engine is forced to show webpages identified as "in English" containing the French expression (or with a significant traffic from pages containing this expression). The search engine finds 189 web pages:



The first one is a bilingual Canadian website. On this page we find directly the expression «must be post-marked». Let's do a usage test:

«must be post-marked»

Results 1 - 10 of about 21 800

This is a more acceptable result, although something is still missing. However, we should remember that the term «postmarked» is more used than «post-marked» (see the usage test above). So, let's try:

«must be postmarked»

Results 1 - 10 of about 570 000

Et voilà! Likewise, the co-occurrence test gives a better result:

«must be postmarked» «le cachet de la poste faisant foi»

Results 1 - 10 of about 81

...and we could also use the search engine to find the most appropriate preposition:

«must be postmarked by»

Results 1 - 10 of about 257 000

or:

«must be postmarked no later than»

Results 1 - 10 of about 91 200

So, the expression «must be postmarked by» is the best translation we may find here for «le cachet de la poste faisant foi». This phrase is very different from the corresponding French expression and it needs a global rewording of our sentence, but the co-occurrence search has been sufficient to find its translation.

Summary

According to the concept of **co-occurrence maximization**, the best translation of a term is the one that can be found most often associated with the original term in a web search. When several different translations are considered, the one with the greatest number of co-occurrences should be chosen.

The **usage frequency** is essential to validate the translations. The representation of the various languages on the World Wide Web is highly uneven and, consequently, a term and its translation cannot be found with the same frequency. Referring to Table 1, a translator may verify whether the observed usage frequencies are consistent with the expected values. In case of a significant deviation, the translation should be considered potentially wrong.

If none of the contemplated translations is satisfying, the translator may perform a **context search** in the bilingual websites. In this case, the expression to be translated should be associated with a term in the target language that probably is associated to the expression to be translated. In most cases, this research allows to identify many bilingual sites in which the translator could find both the source language term and its target language equivalent in the same page.

If the context search does not identify any relevant webpage, or identifies only unsatisfying translations in terms of co-occurrences or usage frequency, a **direct search in the target language** can be run. Using the search engine advanced options, the source expression can be directly searched in the pages written in the target language. This method often allows the identification of new bilingual pages that may contain the translation.

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Children as interpreters in the medical setting

By Zarita Araujo-Lane, LICSW
Edited by Vonessa Phillips



More than 30 years ago, a young child came to a local emergency room and told the doctor that his mother was having a lot of pain “down there”. When the doctor asked more questions, the boy explained that the pain was in the “house for her babies.”

In some ways the boy was right; his mother was having trouble with her pregnancy. In fact, she was having a miscarriage. How lucky everyone was that the diagnosis and the treatment were formulated quickly and that the mother survived this trauma. But did anyone stop to consider what the young boy felt as his family and medical professionals placed upon him such a weighty responsibility?

The psychological impact of role-reversal in non-English speaking immigrant families was evident in many of the patients I treated as a clinician in a Boston-area Community Health Center. The typical referral

was a call from a local school about a youngster who was acting out. Often, the child would have a history of missing school, signing his report cards and telling his parents that everything was under control until one day the bubble of his virtual adult world would burst and the youngster would get in to serious trouble at school.

Parents would complain that this country had taken their parenting tools away from them. Children would tell me that I did not need to involve their parents in the treatment process because the parents did not speak English. Couples seemed to be fighting more, and adult males would become depressed because their roles as providers were all but gone due to language and cultural barriers.

Apart from the welfare of these families, what about the accuracy of the interpretations? A great majority of our non-English speaking adult population is at a

low literacy level in the target language. According to Medscape (2002), low literacy levels are predictors of poorer health status, lack of understanding and use of preventable services, poorer compliances, increased hospitalizations and poorer self-reported health. The cost of healthcare also increases at an average of \$10,000 per individual among a 0-2nd grade literacy level population.

But even adult patients who are educated and fluent in English often have trouble understanding and retaining what their providers say. Can you imagine yourself bringing your son or daughter as your interpreter and relying on his/her ability to convey everything you and the provider said? To illustrate this issue in a more concrete manner: if the pipe in your home broken, would you send your child to fix it? Or would you call a plumber? Most likely, you would ask your child to help by grabbing some towels, but you would not send the child into the thick of the situation. It is true that he or she might someday become qualified as a plumber. But at the moment, the child is not ready.

In 2002, The National Health Law Program submitted its comments to the Office of Civil Rights in Washington, DC, on the Policy Guidance on the Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination as it affects people with Limited English proficiency. In its report, the NHLP stated that interpreters who are not trained are more likely to make major mistakes such as omissions, additions, substitutions and volunteering answers or giving their own opinions.

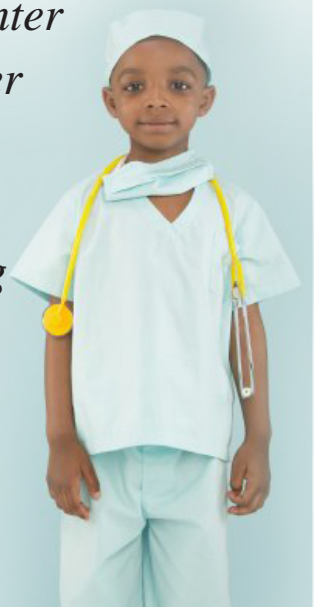
The report also stated concerns about providers using family members, especially children, as interpreters. Not only are children burdened with adult decision-making and responsibilities, but the practice of using children as interpreters violated patient confidentiality and posed a risk of medical errors. The authors referred to a study of 150 Vietnamese and Mexican-American

women who had their children as interpret for them. Over fifty percent of these mothers felt that their child was not accurate with the interpretation and had left information out, most likely because the information was too technical or the child had issues with a lack of fluency in the English language.

Last June, the California State Assembly passed a law (AB7775) that prohibits the use children under age 15 as interpreters in public hospitals, clinics and private doctor's offices. Other states also require that the interpreter must be at least 16 years of age. If the law goes into effect, California will be the first and only state with such legislation.

In 2001, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts published **Best Practices Recommendations For Hospital-Based Interpreters Services Manual**. In it, we read, "As a rule, minor children should not be used as interpreters, even for parents...this does not imply that parents cannot have their children accompany them throughout the clinical encounter. There are clearly varying levels of appropriateness...

*Can you imagine
yourself bringing
your son or daughter
as your interpreter
and relying on
his/her ability to
convey everything
you and the
provider said?*



if the Limited English speaker declines the offer of a professional interpreter services, the hospital needs to first ensure that the patient understands that interpreter services are legally guaranteed and free of charge, and ask permission to have a trained interpreter sit in on the encounter to ensure accuracy...”

Although in general providers agree that the utilization of children as interpreters may not lead to the best care, some medical associations are concerned with the potential impact of banning children from acting as interpreters. Many providers have found themselves in emergency situations, dealing with life and death issues where the only bridge of communication was a child. Other providers worry about the cost of professional interpreter services (it is projected that this law would cost the health industry at least 15

million dollars). It is possible that many community health centers located in rural and poor areas may not be able to financial survive.

We are again left with a divisive issue: should a state ban completely the usage of child interpreters? On one side of the issue, we hear the voices of providers who themselves had been child interpreters and who feel that they were “good” interpreters and that their parents preferred their services to those of strangers. On the other hand, there are adults who have been scarred forever by the expectation of their families and the medical community at large. Like the grown man who was once a little boy with the secret believe that if only he had said this word correctly, he could have saved his mother from a miscarriage.

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Earth's Elders:

The Wisdom of the World's Oldest People

Fifty interviews and photographs of 50

super- centenarians by Jerry Friedman

Essays by Robert Coles, Lama Surya Das, Dr.

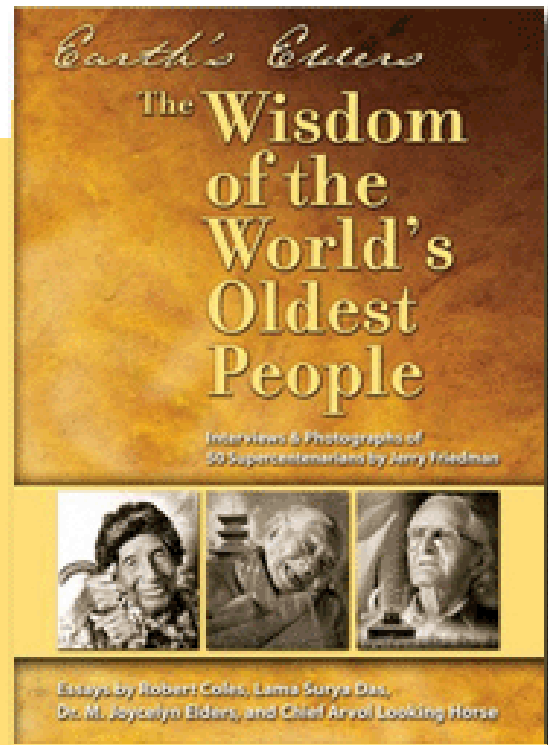
Jocelyn Elders and Chief Looking Horse

In a world of increasing longevity, an American emphasis on anti-aging and a general interest in elderly affairs - from retirement communities and assisted living facilities to healthcare and prescription coverage - this collection will stand alone in sharp contrast.

Award winning photographer Jerry Friedman has produced a one-of-a kind book after traveling from Massachusetts to Mongolia interviewing people that by definition have lived at least 110 years of life. Though there are super elders sites in the web, this is probably the most recent source with actual personal verification of available data, such as birth certificates, baptismal certificates, marriage licenses and census records. And, of course, with the highest quality professional portrait photography. As the reader can imagine words like wisdom, patience, sacrifice, unselfishness, caring, and attitude are essential ingredients in the lives of the supercentenarians in the book. Health is taken for granted and seems to be a byproduct of a dedicated life.

For a more contemporary, shall we say, hypothesis of super aging the New England Centenarian Study that began in 1994 tells us from their studies that: the older you get, the healthier you've been. That certainly runs against the conventional observation that the older you get, the sicker you get. The New England Study center, a combined effort between the National Institutes of Health and Boston University Medical School, has found that the centenarians they have studied have some predictors of reaching 100. For instance few centenarians are obese, men are nearly always lean and a substantial smoking history is rare and their ability to handle stress is better than the majority. Thirty percent of all centenarians had no significant change in their thinking abilities, many had very healthy brains. Many centenarian women had children after age 35 and even 40 years of age which could indicate that it is not necessarily the act of bearing a child but rather that their reproductive systems were aging slower than their contemporaries. Aging runs in families. Children of centenarians ranged in age between 65 and 82 and have half the risk of heart disease, diabetes and stroke. So choosing your parents remains the best yet unobtainable answer

<http://www.supercentenarian.com/records.html>



Words about words and related words



apoplexy:

an old but still in use word for what is today medically known as a *stroke*, a *cerebrovascular accident (CVA)*. It borrows from the Greek as: *a seizure, being struck down* (originally by the Gods). Strokes, just like heart attacks are most often caused by atherosclerotic blockages in cerebral circulation, thus it is common nowadays to hear or see *brain attack* as an additional synonym.

Ischemia means poor circulatory perfusion of the tissues. *Ischemic* brain blockages can come about in two ways: a) by atherosclerotic plaques developed slowly through the years (just like in the heart) or by b) the result of an embolus (blood clot or foreign matter) that broke loose from elsewhere in the circulation, most likely the heart, and finally came to rest within a cerebral vessel. The clinical picture is the same. Blockages can also be *hemorrhagic*, a dilated blood vessel tears and bleeds into the adjacent tissues encroaching on blood flow.

In Spanish the commonest medical equivalents to stroke are *accidente cerebrovascular (ACV)*, *derrame cerebral* or just *derrame*, and, also, *embolia*. It is difficult to tell how these expressions gained in popularity but they are generally used and understood by both the lay public and medical personnel and often heard from LEPs. *Derrame* literally means spillage which may well be related to spillage of blood, hemorrhage in the brain. However, *embolia*, also used commonly, is a relatively modern medical mechanism of disease. Perhaps the suddenness of embolic episodes is what's behind the association to the word.

fellow :

is a polysemic word with several medical and non-medical meanings. It is, of course, the word given to an unidentified person, usually a male, and is used as a synonym for "person" or "guy" e.g., "See that 'fellow' crossing the street." It is also used for a personal acquaintance, colleague or partner, e.g., "Dr James has been a 'fellow' physician at the Holy Cross Hospital for several years." A common use, often seen in the news, is for scholars from highly regarded organizations and "think tanks" who appear on TV and are introduced as a 'fellow' or 'senior fellow' at the Rand Corporation or the Brookings Institution.

The most common medical use of the word fellow is in reference to a physician who is pursuing training in a subspecialty of medicine. A resident is the one who pursues training in a primary specialty of medicine e.g., internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology and others. A "fellow", short for "fellow-in-training" is the physician who further pursues training in a subspecialty area e.g., cardiology, rheumatology, gastroenterology, pulmonary diseases, etc. An ophthalmologist can become a subspecialist in glaucoma, retinal diseases among others. Our preference is to use "residente de subespecialidad", anybody familiar with US medicine would understand it. Otherwise, just keep it as "fellow".

The other common medical meaning of fellow refers to *a distinction awarded by a medical organization to a physician member who fulfills certain requirements*. The initials FACP after the MD name stand for Fellow of the American College of Physicians. FACOG would be fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, FAAO would be fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and so on. The best Spanish translation for this use that I know of is "*miembro distinguido*" which would cover the intention, if not the actual meaning.

Next, there is a “*research fellow*”/ *becario de investigación*. This term applies to anybody, physician or otherwise, who is pursuing research of any kind, medical or otherwise, under some form of grant or scholarship funding.

There also *post-doctoral fellows in Medicine*. These are already Doctors of Medicine who pursue further academic training, usually customized to the student’s wishes, involving a very narrow area of medicine applied to non-direct patient care issues, perhaps international or third world medical problems.

The issue gets worse in trying to find a suitable translation for “fellow” or “royal fellow” when dealing with physicians in the UK or Canada. There is no agreed upon consensus, other than along the lines of what I have outlined here.

nurse practitioner (NP):


this title belongs to a registered nurse who has pursued further studies as follows. Whereas, it is desirable for a nurse to have a Masters degree before continuing towards a Nurse Practitioner, the usual pathway is for an RN (a registered nurse) to practice the profession for at least two years before entering a nurse practitioner curriculum which requires an additional two years of study. There are programs for candidates who hold a baccalureate (Bachelors) degree in Nursing who, for a variety of reasons, never completed the requirements towards certification and the RN title. These programs are longer in duration than those for a Master’s degree and can lead to the RN as well as the NP degree. In general, these are very selective programs.

During the course of studies towards an NP degree a variety of possible medical pathways are opened to the student e.g., intensive care, anesthesia, neonatology, geriatrics, psychiatry, mental health, obstetrics, pediatrics, general medical care, perhaps others. During training and later in their professional work NPs develop a teacher, later mentor, relation with supervising physicians.

Nurse practitioners work in every healthcare environment: hospitals, clinics, private offices, extended care facilities, home health care , HMOs and school systems. They can open up their private practice and carry malpractice insurance.

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners prefers the term *enfermera especialista* as their Spanish equivalent. *Enfermera practicante* would not be suitable in the US environment, that is what a licensed practical nurse would be called.

“me too” drugs

essentially, these drugs are modifications of existing drugs. While the term seems pejorative and some say that these new drugs are only copycats or “knockoffs” , others argue that the new versions provide significant clinical benefits. Examples of these are birth control pills and certain antidepressants. There are similar “me toos” that modify the active ingredients in a manner that is beneficial to the consumer because it takes advantage of the clinical experience derived from the use of the original pharmaceutical - particularly as regards side effects or other unexpected after-market developments 

The view from Seattle.

The city of Seattle is known for its leadership role in many areas - industry, academics, agriculture to name a few. It is the largest producer of apples, computers and commercial airplanes in the world as well as the central station for the largest coffee retail chain and the largest bookseller in the world.

So it was an appropriate location for the Medical Division to hold elections, promise to continue what has been done so far and break new ground in other ventures. Elections brought myself and Anja Lodge to the Administrator and Assistant Administrator positions. I will continue to manage the production of our newsletter, Caduceus.

A Division Website will be the first order of business in 2006.

Division Monthly News Update - You may have already received a new Division Monthly News Update which should keep every member abreast of current information, remind them of pertinent past news, and direct our attention towards planned activities in the near future. Below is the most noteworthy item you need to be aware of. Read carefully.

Starting in 2006, ATA membership dues will include division memberships at no additional charge. An ATA member can opt to join or renew membership in as many divisions as he or she wants. Renewal notices, which will be mailed shortly, will offer members the option to join any and all divisions. The same option will be in place for online renewals and new members. Members will also be able to add/delete division memberships – starting in early December – throughout the year just as they can currently update their address, email, etc. in the ATA database.

- n This change will streamline the administration of ATA divisions. Administrators and other division volunteers can focus on providing the division core services: newsletters, conference sessions, including inviting special speakers, networking, listservs, and websites.
- n Administrators and other division volunteers will no longer need to spend valuable time on the financial side of running the division.
- n More members will be able to access the volumes of in-depth language and topic-specific material available through access to other divisions simultaneously.

ATA Annual Conference Sites and Dates

Plan early!

2006
New Orleans
Louisiana
November 2-5

2007
Miami
Florida
Oct 31 – Nov 3

Did you know that Medicine ranks first among the top 10 areas of specialization most queried for in the ATA Membership Directory?

Would you like others to know about you?

Space is available in Caduceus

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