



# The Multilingual Voice

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Happy New Year! We have been working hard and researching all things language and communication! We hope our newsletter brings you knowledge, insight, and joy as we provide you with different views on language access, new technologies in communication, and ways to connect and network. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share all of this with you.

## COMMUNICATION ACROSS ALL BARRIERS

It's hard to believe it has been almost three years since all of our lives changed. Looking back on everything we have gone through, everything we have accomplished, and all the things we lost or gained has brought a new perspective on everyday life. Some have had joy and are grateful for the time spent in lockdown, as it brought families and friends together, while others have felt pain in the solitude, have suffered the death of loved ones, and have lost more than is thought possible to bear. There is no *either-or* situation here; some of us have experienced both, and we have learned to tolerate, accept, and embrace the lessons learned. We can all agree that these past years have made us see life in a different light. Most of us have families in our native countries, and we all tried to find ways to communicate. Though it was not always easy, it was made possible by all the different technologies developed to provide the best kind of language access. Virtually singing happy birthday seemed, and felt, a bit normal, making the world smaller and less scary. Enjoy the time with your loved ones and reach out virtually to those far away. Communication has never been more accessible than now, so take advantage!

Some topics we will cover in *The Multilingual Voice* include:

1. A featured story or event
2. A list of upcoming events, networks, and workshops
3. Shared best practices
4. Tips for interpreters and translators in education
5. Information regarding common educational terminology

We look forward to continuing this adventure with you as we move toward becoming *The Multilingual Voice* of all school districts!

Welcome,  
 Bienvenidos,  
 bem-vindo, ترحيب  
 歡迎,  
 willkommen  
 Accueil  
 maligayang pag-  
 dating  
 स्वागत  
 Benvenuto  
 환영

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome .....	1
OCDE Multilingual Consortium.....	2
The Main Story .....	2-3
Practitioners Tips .....	4
Interesting Facts about Language..	5
Final Thoughts/Contact us .....	6

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **The Community Interpreter® Training** March 27-31, 2023 (In-person)
- **Professional Development Series with Regina Galasso** April 27th, 2023 (Virtual)
- **What Every Interpreter/Translator Should Know About IEPs** May 4, 2023 (Virtual)
- **Multilingual Consortium Meeting** May 9, 2023
- **Basic Interpreters' Training** May 17, 2023 (In-person)
- **Professional Development Series with Katharine Allen** May 12, 2023 (HYBRID)

## MULTILINGUAL CONSORTIUM

We are so glad to have so many of you join virtually and in person! Our first hybrid consortium meeting of the year was a success, and we could not have made it possible without each of you, so thank you!

The Multilingual Consortium aims to establish a safe space for all bilingual staff in educational settings across the county and the nation and provide supports, tips, knowledge, and training, as well as networking opportunities for all. The Consortium began before the pandemic and was focused on local staff only. The pandemic allowed us to broaden our horizons and invite people from all parts of the country, uniting through a time when everything was uncertain. The Consortium helped many find a place to discuss frustrations, ask for help and tips and guide each other through the pandemic and the overwhelming demand for interpreters and translators.

If you have not had the chance to attend one of our meetings you're in luck. Our next HYBRID meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, from 8:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. PST in person** and from **10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. PST virtual**.

**Link to register:**

**<http://ocde.k12oms.org/2158-220160>**

or contact Natalia Abarca at [nabarca@ocde.us](mailto:nabarca@ocde.us)

*We hope to see you there!*



## CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

On January 16, the country remembered and celebrated the man that paved the way for social justice and civil rights. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was established to end segregation in public places and education. The Equal Opportunity Employment Commission was created to prevent any person from receiving unjust treatment in the workplace because of their race, color, gender, ethnicity or religion. Dr. King is considered the driving force behind the Civil Rights Act as his fight for racial justice, desegregation, and equality resonated with thousands upon thousands across the nation and worldwide, allowing for the development and success of the Civil Rights Act. As multilingual individuals, most with immigrant families, knowing our rights are protected and our cultures acknowledged provides us with opportunities our ancestors were once deprived of. So, thank you, Dr. King, for your voice, dedication, and sacrifice; many generations have succeeded, and we know that many more ahead will also because of your actions and words.

## RECOGNIZING TALENT

We dedicate this space to the incredible bilingual staff in our schools. We honor their talent, dedication, and selfless effort to provide our students, families, and communities with the best services.

We had the honor and pleasure of presenting an award to two outstanding bilingual staff at our 6th Annual Interpreters and Translators Conference during our in-person day on Saturday, September 24, 2022!

### Carmen Stout

Capistrano Unified School District

“Carmen plays an integral part in building our school culture by helping our ELD students feel more connected to their teachers and our campus.”

“Carmen radiates kindness, compassion, understanding, creativity, problem solving, knowledge of community and district resources and support, and a passionate desire to help the lives of those around her. She is skilled in both English and Spanish and is always willing to help those who are not bilingual. She translates between groups in a positive and efficient manner, and builds bridges of communication and support among our community.”

### Javier Zamorano

Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

“Mr. Javier Zamorano is an invaluable asset to Newport-Mesa Unified School District staff, students, and families. He takes great pride in his work in every way. Not only does he ensure accuracy, but he employs critical interpersonal skills when interacting with staff and parents. Mr. Zamorano’s professionalism is unparalleled. He offers families a great sense of security and comfort. He is loyal and committed and has built relationships over many years in our organization. Mr. Zamorano is dependable and organized. His attention to detail is amazing. Newport-Mesa is indebted to Mr. Zamorano as an essential part of our district.”

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LANGUAGE

The US has no official language.

Learning a second language can boost your brain.

The shortest grammatically correct sentence is “GO!”

There are around 160 different English dialects.

‘*Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis*’ is one of the world’s longest words.

A person who masters languages is called a polyglot.

“N” is the most common English consonant.

Onomatopoeia varies with each country.

Japanese has no distinction between singular and plural words.

The world’s most translated novel almost flopped (hint, *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho).

William Shakespeare invented 1700 words.

The word “synonym” doesn’t have a synonym.

The longest word without vowels is “rhythms.”

The longest word you can make with only four letters is “senseless.”

French was the UK’s official language for 600 years.

## TRENDING WORDS TO TRANSLATE IN ENGLISH

1. **Adulting**: the action of becoming or acting like an adult.
2. **Contactless**: not having to physically touch or interact with people.
3. **Awe walk**: taking a walk outside and trying to look at things around you.
4. **Doomscrolling**: reading the news on social media and expecting it to be bad – so much so that you become obsessed with looking at updates.
5. **PPE**: an abbreviation for *personal protective equipment*.
6. **Quaranteen**: a teenager during the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. **Thirsty**: having a need for attention or approval.
8. **Truthiness**: something that seems true but isn’t backed up by evidence.
9. **Unconscious bias**: unconscious prejudice against people of a certain race, gender, or group.
10. **WFH**: an abbreviation for work (or working) from home.
11. **Awesomesauce**: extremely good; excellent.
12. **Awfy**: terrible, dreadful, remarkable, or notable.

## Educational Acronyms

**ADD**—Attention Deficit Disorder

**ADHD**—Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

**BIP**—Behavioral Intervention Plan

**DLS**—Daily Living Skills

**EI**—Emotional Impairment

**ESL**—English as a Second Language

**ESSA**—Every Student Succeeds Act

**ESY**—Extended School Year

**FERPA**—Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

**FAPE**—Free Appropriate Public Education

**IDEA**—Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

**LRE**—Least Restrictive Environment

**MAPP**—Measure of Academic Performance and Progress

**SELPA**—Special Education Local Planning Area

**SSB**—State Seal of Biliteracy

**STO**—Short Term Objectives



## HISTORIC INTERPRETERS

Imagine being an interpreter during Ancient Egypt, the Age of Discovery alongside Christopher Columbus, the Renaissance era, or even World War II. History books haven't hailed those brave enough to interpret during such heated and history-making times. However, interpreting has been around since the times of Ancient Egypt; for example, in the 3rd millennium B.C., many tombs were discovered with depictions of interpreters, a clear example of the importance of interpreters for language access. Interpreters continued to be employed throughout the Middle Ages in monasteries, councils, and synagogues, as well as business expeditions, military incursions, and diplomatic meetings.<sup>1</sup>

The written word has had the luxury of being recorded in books throughout history. In contrast, interpretation cannot be recorded even though it has been around for centuries.

As previously mentioned, Ancient Egyptians had depicted interpreters, and the profession continued with the Ancient Greeks and Romans as their conquests required the ability to communicate with those they conquered. It was not noble to speak the language of others, so the farmers and peasants would be tasked with communicating and interpreting for the nobility. Latin was the *lingua franca* for many decades for business transactions, travel and war or peace treaties.

La Malinche, also known as Malitzen or Doña María, was perhaps one of the most controversial interpreters ever. Not much is known of her childhood, only that she was a victim of slavery at a young age and was taken in 1519, along with many others, by Spanish Conquistador Hernán Cortés when he and his army conquered the Maya City of Potonchán. She became an asset to Cortés when he discovered she could speak Nahuatl and Yucatec, the languages of the Aztec and Mayan people, respectively. Her language skills were an asset to the Spanish conquistadors. Still, her controversial actions impacted her reputation. Some see her as a traitor to her people for informing the Spanish about a planned attack that eventually led the Spanish to kill the Aztec leader and end the Aztec Empire. She later gave birth to Hernán Cortés' son, Martín, though she was forced to marry one of his captains, Juan Jaramillo. She has become a symbol in Mexico; some consider her the “mother of the mestizo race.”



Image Credits: La Malinche with Aztec emperor and Hernán Cortés. Wikimedia Commons.

The most known interpreter of our time is Valentin Berezkhov, a Russian interpreter who served during the talks between Adolf Hitler, Vyacheslav Molotov, and Joachim von Ribbentrop in 1940. He then served as the personal interpreter to Iosif Stalin and Molotov during the Teheran Conference in 1943 and the Yalta Conference in 1945. He also interpreted the meeting between Stalin and Roosevelt.

Recently, Lydia Callis was praised after signing alongside New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg during his Hurricane Sandy speech at a press conference in 2012. Even though the topic she had to interpret was grim, Lydia's uplifting and emotive interpreting received a lot of positive feedback and more attention than Bloomberg's speech! Her new fame allowed her to bring awareness to the importance of language access for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Other known historical interpreters are St. Jerome (347-240 AD), Gaspar Antonio Chi, Sarah Winnemucca, and many more. Who knows? We may see your name on those lists in the future!



Image Credits: Image of Tisquantum (Squanto) and English Pilgrims. Kean Collection/Archive Photos/Getty Images.

Another example of a historical interpreter is a known name in the United States. Tisquantum, or Squanto, was deceived, enslaved, and transported to Spain. He was saved from slavery by Spanish friars who took him and others in and taught them Christianity. At that time, he fled to England, where he learned English and befriended a tradesman. This friendship gave Tisquantum the job of an interpreter on his journey back to the United States. He was the bridge between the natives of New England and the explorers attempting to take over. His skills paved the way for peace treaties and the development of Pilgrim colonies.



Image Credits: Valentin Berezkhov at the Tehran Conference. Kpt.ua/files/images/berezkhov\_stalin.jpg

1. History of Interpreting, AP Portugal, Tech Language Solutions, [apportugal.com/interpretation-services](http://apportugal.com/interpretation-services).



## HOW TO RECOGNIZE YOUR UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

Whether we believe it or not, we all have unconscious biases. Many studies have been developed to determine the whys and hows these are imprinted into each of us.

Some strategies to mitigate unconscious bias, developed by Vanderbilt University, can help you on your journey to recognize and combat it.

- Learn as Much as Possible About Unconscious Bias and Ways to Combat It
- Tell Your Story and Listen to the Stories of Others
- Avoid Stereotypes and Over-Generalizations
- Separate Feelings from Facts
- Have a Diverse Group of People around the Decision-Making Table
- Engage in Self- Reflection to Uncover Personal Biases
- Develop Safe and Brave Spaces to Discuss Unconscious Bias
- Be an Active Ally
- Don't Expect a Quick Fix
- Practice Empathy

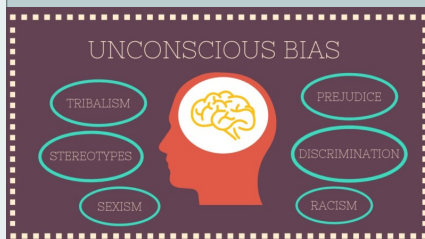


Image credits: [grandrapids.org/blog/diversity/unconscious-bias-workplace/](http://grandrapids.org/blog/diversity/unconscious-bias-workplace/)

## UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

What is an unconscious bias? Why is it important to recognize it? According to the Office of Diversity and Outreach of the University of California, San Francisco, unconscious or implicit biases are social stereotypes about certain groups of people that individuals form outside their own conscious awareness. Everyone holds unconscious beliefs about various social and identity groups, and their biases stem from one's tendency to organize social worlds by categorizing. Without realizing it, our unconscious biases influence our professional lives and interactions with colleagues.

An unconscious bias can be detrimental in the workplace and even more so in education. Let us consider a hypothetical event: A new student walks into Mr. M's class. Mr. M is happy to welcome and introduce the new student to the class. He asks the student their name, and the student responds with an ethnic, traditional name that stumps him. He is unsure of how to say the student's name, makes a slight expression and asks them to repeat it three times before he says it to the class, and even then, he doesn't say it correctly. The teacher's reaction and struggle to say the name forces the student to speak to the class and say, "you can just call me S." The student walks to their desk, embarrassed. Although the teacher didn't directly intend to do this, his action came from his unconscious bias that an ethnic, traditional name is automatically difficult to say and should just be replaced by a nickname or a shorter version of it. The best thing you can do to reduce and eventually prevent your unconscious bias from impacting your daily life is to learn strategies for preventing implicit bias as well as methods for practicing and implementing those strategies.

## CERTIFICATE VS CERTIFICATION

The age-old distinction between having a certificate and being certified is just as confusing today as ever. Interpreters and Translators struggle to establish the difference between those two when seeking jobs. We will explain the difference to help you detect the one being requested. As defined by the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants, a *certification*, or to be certified, results from an assessment process that recognizes an individual's knowledge skills, and competency in a particular specialty. It typically requires professional experience and is awarded by a third-party, standard-setting organization, typically not for profit. It indicates mastery/competency as measured against a defensible set of standards, usually by application or exam.

In contrast, a certificate is earned after an educational process for newcomers and experienced professionals. It is awarded by educational programs or institutions often for-profit. It indicates completing of a course or series of courses with a specific focus (different than a degree-granting program).

So, a certificate is evidence of education, while certification is evidence of passing an exam. Medical interpreters can receive certification, whereas community and educational interpreters and translators can only receive a certificate, typically following a 40-hour training. The certification road for interpreters and translators in education will soon be paved, so be on the lookout for that opportunity!



### IN OUR NEXT ISSUE...

Our final issue of the fiscal year will be filled with information regarding upcoming events, professional development opportunities, networking, future plans, and much more!

Be sure to check out our website for more information and updates!

We want to hear from you!

Do you want to recognize someone, celebrate and share an accomplishment, or give us ideas for our next issue? Please contact us at [language\\_services@ocde.us](mailto:language_services@ocde.us) or by calling Stephanie Rock at 714-966-4429.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

After many years of interpreting and translating, do you still get butterflies before an assignment? Is the job providing you with growth opportunities? Some may have discovered a different calling, while others are newly finding this as a career. The ones that have been in it for a while, and survived what the pandemic threw at them, are the pioneers of a career that will be fruitful, beneficial, and rewarding. Pushing to professionalize interpreting and translation in education is our ultimate goal; every day new changes are allowing us to get closer to the finish line.



### LANGUAGE SERVICES

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**JORGE IBARRA**  
PROJECT ASSISTANT  
714-966-4394

**STEPHANIE ROCK**  
PROJECT ASSISTANT  
714-966-4429

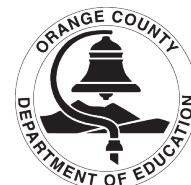
**ANGELA DEL ROSARIO**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III  
714-708-5899

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

OCDE's Language Services Team has created a Professional Development Series for all bilingual school and community interpreters. Our first meeting featured Elena Langdon, who shared her knowledge and expertise and provided us with her best tips for note-taking skills. Her weekly sessions were hands-on, interactive, and full of incredible tips and tricks to professionalize note-taking! We appreciate Elena for her time and talent.

You won't want to miss our next one! Regina Galasso, a talented and experienced interpreter and translator, will present on the importance of "Translation in Schools" and share her advice on strategies and best practices for translation in schools. Register [here!](#)

We will share all the information for signing up for our Professional Development Series sessions on our Language Services website. Be sure to check in to stay up to date [here!](#)





# Know Your Path: Each Step Matters to Ensure Language Access



## Join us in-person for our 7th annual conference!

### September 29th and 30th, 2023 Hilton Hotel, Costa Mesa, California

More information coming soon



# Call for Presenters

7th Annual Interpreters and Translators Conference  
"Know Your Path: Each Step Matters to Ensure Language Access"  
September 29 & 30, 2023  
Costa Mesa Hilton, Costa Mesa CA

Presentations will be selected under the following categories:

- Skills Development - Beginners - Intermediate - Advanced
  - Glossary Building
  - Note Taking
  - Modes of Interpretation
  - Team Interpreting
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Language
- Technology/CAT Tools
- Student and Family Engagement
- Best Practices for I&T
- Ethics for I&T
- Self Care for I&T
- Certifications/Education/Training
- Language Access Practices/Policies/Procedures
- Culturally Responsive Practices for I&T working in educational settings
- Other topics for I&T working in educational settings

Submissions close on March 31, 2023

Visit the link below to submit a proposal:

<https://link.ocde.us/ITCcallforpresenters>



Orange County Department of Education  
Educational Services Division  
Language Services Unit

### The Community Interpreter®

Dates	Location
<b>Monday, March 27, 2023</b> 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<b>Module 1</b> Bldg. D, Room 1001
<b>Tuesday, March 28, 2023</b> 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<b>Module 2</b> Bldg. D, Room 1001
<b>Wednesday, March 29, 2023</b> 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<b>Module 3</b> Bldg. D, Room 1001
<b>Thursday, March 30, 2023</b> 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<b>Module 4</b> Bldg. D, Room 1001
<b>Friday, March 31, 2023</b> 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<b>Module 5</b> Bldg. D, Room 1001

Cost \$500.00 per person (Includes 5 days of training and text book)  
(Breakfast and Lunch will not be provided)

Location: Orange County Department of Education  
200 Kalmus Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626

You may register at <http://ocde.k12oms.org/2158-221029>

Facilitated by: Natalia Abarca, OCDE, TCI Licensed Trainer

For registration information, please contact Angela Del Rosario at 714-708-5899 or e-mail [adelrosario@ocde.us](mailto:adelrosario@ocde.us).

Payment must be submitted before the event. Proof of payment is required for event entry. Cancellations must be made 14 days prior to the event for a refund of payment or to avoid being charged.

Individuals with disabilities in need of auxiliary aides and services may request assistance by contacting Angela del Rosario at (714) 709-5899 or [adelrosario@ocde.us](mailto:adelrosario@ocde.us).

**Requisites to attend:** Please send a resume and proof of language proficiency OR a 4 year college degree from an accredited educational institution from your home country. If you do not have the requisites to attend the training, please schedule an oral test with our office by calling (714) 966-4429 or email [srock@ocde.us](mailto:srock@ocde.us).

**Note:** To receive your certificate, you must attend 40 hours OR make up your missing hours at another session.

**Audience:** Bilingual staff and contract interpreters in healthcare, education, social services and community services e.g., hospitals and health departments, K-12 schools, family planning, domestic violence, housing, senior centers, law enforcement, etc.

**Eligibility:** Applicants should have a high school diploma, interpreting experience, and proof of language proficiency.



September 29-30, 2023  
Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa



Registration opens  
April 2023



# Dr. Shree Walker

Author/Educator/Motivational Speaker



LEARN MORE

@resilientwalker

@ResilientWalker

[www.resilientwalker.com](http://www.resilientwalker.com)