

The ILR 2012-2022

Thinking of the Road Ahead

Personal Thoughts

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ILR 1955-2011

Voluntary Pioneering

- Accomplishments
 - Development of commonly understood skill level descriptors – publication of ILR SLDs by GPO (OPM) 8
 - Development of OPIs
 - Translation, Interpretation SLDs
 - Lingua-cultural competence SLD
 - Audio translation SLD
- Volunteers without organization charter with primary facility sponsor from State/FSI/SLS

1990-2011

Growth of Standards

- ASTM Standards
 - Instruction
 - Interpreting
 - Translation
 - Testing
- ASTM Technical Committee F43
 - Subcommittees
 - Technical Advisory Groups
- These standards are directed at the relationship between provider of service and the consumer of that service.
- IMHO They do not address the linguistic performance of the translator, interpreter, instructor, or test except by reference to ILR skill level descriptors.

Why Standards

- Our market economy and much of our federal government activity are successful only when there is a mutual trust between the providers and the consumers of commodities and services
- Standards provide the guidelines for building and maintaining that mutual trust
- Standards are enforceable but only by the parties that agree to the application of the standard in a contractual relationship

Standards

- Ensure performance within provider – consumer relationships but only when both parties understand and accept the standards
- Standards for performance of hardware/software exist in firm articulation of what the hardware/software is expected to do in terms of performance
- Can similar standards be written for translation, interpretation, or language analysis performance?

Performer Certification

- IMO the nation needs a national system for certification of language workers
- Achieving national certification will require public and private funds applied to development of the methodology, the tests, establishment of test centers and an administrative body.
- Political and economic pressure must be generated through local, state, and federal government organizations with support from non-government sector, academe' and industry

Some Candidate Domains

- Community Social Services
- Health and medical services
- Legal and contractual services
- Diplomatic and International Relations
- General information and intelligence operations
- Public works and utilities
- Science and engineering
- Export globalization/localization

Certification Tiers Within Domains

- TIERS
 - Novice
 - Apprentice
 - Journeyman
 - Professional
 - Expert
- Types of performance within tiers
 - For example “journeyman” escort, simultaneous, or consecutive interpreter

Performer Certification Questions

- Is certification of the performer the key to meeting specifications and standards?
- Do the FBI and State Department programs offer models for building a national certification program?
- Will the ATA self assessment and plans for modernizing translator certification succeed?
 - Self assessment of current methodology
 - Plans to improve and facilitate process

A Federal Civilian Language Corps

- Modeled on the enlisted military language workforce drawing on graduates of secondary school system
- Recruit best and brightest with high language aptitude and language education or heritage speakers for six year commitment
- Provide basic language enhancement and training in translation and interpretation arts
- Work in pool for temporary assignments where needed or permanent assignment with an agency.
- Tuition assistance for college studies on own time
- Establish career opportunities for continuation of government service.

The ILR Role

- Should the ILR in its current form take a role in standardization and certification?
- How could the ILR support a national program of standards and certification of language workers?
- Can the ILR help build the Federal Civilian Language Corps?
- IMO The ILR working together with the ATA, NAJIT, ACTFL, MLA, AAAL and other entities with language equities can provide the opening forum.