



TRANSLATION, EDITING AND AUTHOR EDITING ISSUES

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Case study – Translation – good client

- Actas Dermosifiliográficas
<https://www.actasdermo.org/>
- Full translation of all sections of an ES>EN dermatology journal.
- Aim: to improve the citation index of the journal and the professional outlook for contributors.
- Key elements:
- Large team of junior and senior translators, life scientists and medics.
- Shared TM and list of resources.
- Three rounds of feedback pre-publication and proofs all checked by translators.
- Adherence to AMA style.

Case study – Editing – good client

- Content for an EU body that shall not be named
- Aim: to improve reports written by non-native experts to be read by an international audience.
- Key elements:
 - EU style institutional guide and writing guidance can be used.
 - Experts should not need content editing.
 - Highly educated writers who believe their English is good and who need to receive considerate but firmly worded feedback...

Case study – pro bono editing – good clients

- AAEM – Author Aid in the Eastern Mediterranean
<http://www.authoraidem.org/>
- Author editing for expert medical and related topic writers who have second language English.
- Aim – to help them get published in journals and to move on forward their career paths.
- Key elements:
- Editing restricted to language issues, no content editing needed.
- Editor told of target journal.

Case studies – some of the random clients that come my way – not quite so good:

Q: Do you have a student who can translate/edit my text on XXX topic for presentation/publication in two days' time?

(A: There is no budget. Avoid at all costs.)

Q: This is my MA/PhD thesis on XXX, my supervisor says it needs some work on the syntax. Can you do it?

(A: There is no budget and the text is frankly illegible.)

Q: I have a medical text for translation, I can pay £X per 1,000 words in instalments with a decent deadline. Can you do it?

(A: Translator [excited by idea of regular pay and the idea of several months of continuous work on an area she knows] gets copy of text to find it explores how all children were originally angels as their shoulder bones clearly show where the wings were once attached. [Translator cries].)

Issue 1 What most random clients want...

...generally right at the end of their production process:

*Fix this now, fix this cheap,
make sure it's perfect, and
please don't ask any difficult
questions!*

What the client is actually asking for:

TRANSLATION AND REVISION CONTRASTED WITH OTHER KINDS OF EDITING

	TRANSLATION	COMPARATIVE REVISION	UNILINGUAL REVISION	COPY EDITING	CONTENT EDITING	STYLISTIC EDITING	STRUCTURAL EDITING
TRANSFER							
Accuracy	XX	XX					
Completeness	XX	XX					
CONTENT							
Logic	X	X	X		XX		
Facts	X	X	X		XX		
LANGUAGE + STYLE							
Smoothness	XX	XX	XX	X		XX	
Tailoring	XX	XX	XX			XX	
Sublanguage	XX	XX	XX	X		XX	
Idiom	XX	XX	XX	X		XX	
Mechanics	XX	XX	XX	XX		XX	
PRESENTATION							
Typography	X	X	X	X			XX
Layout	X	X	X	X			XX
Organization	X	X	X	X			XX

A double X indicates areas that are particularly important in each function.

Source: Ailish Maher & Lucí Vázquez, based on *Revising and Editing for Translators*, 2nd Ed. Brian Mossop, Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing, 2007. |

Issue 2 Instructions for authors

- All journals have these with varying degrees of detail, observance and pedantry. A good editor will have a handle on just how tightly these need to be applied.

Issue 3 Style guides

A few favourites:

- AMA (American Medical Association) - for Actas Dermo
- Economist - for journalistic texts
- Chicago – when all else fails, this is the ‘big momma’ everyone else uses as a back up

Issue 4 Tools

- Advanced use of Microsoft Office
- CAT tools
- PerfectIt
- Bibliography tools

Freelances must keep up with the trends on these things and be aware of the key functionalities and limitations of these.

References

- Mossop, B., (2007) Revising and Editing for Translators, Manchester: St.Jerome
(There is a 3rd edition available from 2014)
- The Economist Style Guide
<https://bordeure.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/the-economist-style-guide.pdf>
- The American Medical Association (AMA) Manual of Style
<https://www.amamanualofstyle.com/>
- The Chicago Style Guide
<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>