

# Zsolt Pálfi

- conference interpreter
- consecutive interpreter
- translator
- proofreader

Zsolt Pálfi was born in Vágsellye, in 1964. His parents originate from Hungary but they moved to Slovakia after World War II. Today, he lives in Budapest with his wife and thirteen-year-old daughter.

## Education and language acquisition

Mr. Pálfi attended primary, secondary school and university in Slovakia and then he decided to come to Hungary. He acquired a degree in International studies and Economics at Kodolányi János University. Since Mr. Pálfi was brought up in bilingual environment, he considers it clear-cut why he became an interpreter and translator. During his childhood he spoke Hungarian and Slovak as his mother tongue then he picked up Czech and German. Later he managed to speak these languages at native level so he uses all four in any directions. Mr. Pálfi is a member of MFTE (Association of Hungarian Translators and Interpreters). He prefers translating and interpreting in the area of law and economics.

## Bilingualism

Mr. Pálfi has never actually decided to become an interpreter or a translator; he says “life brought it so”. His mother was a Slovak teacher and there were days when she spoke to her son only in Slovak. Moreover, during his life in Vágsellye he was often asked to translate or interpret not only in informal, but also in formal environment. As an example for the former one he mentioned pioneer camps; where he was frequently asked to interpret into or from German. All in all Mr. Pálfi decided to utilize the gift he got from life; bilingualism.

## Music

Mr. Pálfi plays various instruments. As a child he learned to play the piano, the guitar, the cello and the double bass. Besides his job he often plays these instruments for example at wedding ceremonies or plays for folk dance groups with his band.

Mr. Pálfi considers his job really interesting because it is never boring. Every occasion for work is different and brings new challenges for him. These are the reasons for the fact that he would never give up translating and interpreting.

Advice for would-be translators and interpreters

“If you want to be a good translator or interpreter just keep practising because it is never enough.”

Zsolt Pálfi