

## Profile - Csilla Szabó

Written by Anna Király

Csilla Szabó started her career as interpreter and translator at Berzsenyi Dániel University, where she was working as an English teacher. In 1996 she was requested to teach interpretation too, so in the same year she applied to ELTE (Eötvös Loránd University) where she learned translation and interpretation. Since she graduated at ELTE, she has been teaching and making interpretations and translations, but she is not a literary translator.

Talking about role models, Szabó mentions Kinga Klaudy and Pál Heltai. She knows Klaudy from academic circles, she was the one who persuaded Szabó to apply to ELTE to learn translation and interpretation. During Szabó's studies at ELTE, Klaudy always stood by her, and even after university they could maintain a good relationship. Klaudy helped her greatly when Szabó was writing her PhD thesis about interpretation, because Szabó could always turn to her in connection with academic questions. Pál Heltai was her opponent when she defended her thesis. According to her, Heltai is an outstanding professional in translation and interpretation.

When it comes to a favourite work or task, Szabó says that she enjoys the most when she can practice all of her jobs: translating, interpreting and teaching, because these three tasks complement each other. If she had to choose one favourite task, she would pick simultaneous interpretation, because this is the biggest challenge for her. Moreover, she regularly does other types of interpretation too: conference interpretation and consecutive interpretation. Szabó really finds pleasure in teaching: at the University of West Hungary she teaches English language, applied linguistics, translation, translation theory, legal terminology, simultaneous and consecutive interpretation and psycholinguistics etc. She often prepares other teachers for Cambridge proficiency exams.

She frequently makes translations, typically from Hungarian to English. There is a wide range of topics she has been translating (Hun-En):

- legal texts for courts
- tourism-related texts for Tourinform offices, Agora Savaria, web pages and different publications
- music-related fields: music criticism, CD-covers

- texts from the field of social science and special education

As a translator she usually works in team, and as a teacher she believes that her task is to raise the new translator generation, so she regularly and readily works with her students she can trust in. Another team she is working with consists of her previous group members from ELTE and other friends. Recently 8 of them were working together on a translation project. The topic of this project was special education, it was 180,000 characters and they had a 10-day deadline to complete it. The group worked efficiently on the project using the online surface of Memoq: they shared glossaries and translation memories. Szabó says that it is essential for a translator to have at least 8-10 reliable persons to work with. It can easily happen that you are not competent in a topic, but another team member is. She believes that keeping connection with other translators and colleagues is always useful: "I am good at something, you are good at something different, we can swap knowledge".

Szabó believes that translation and interpretation education is outstanding in Hungary, however, there are some problems. One of these is the relatively high number of educating institutions: in every institution a different approach is in the focus, there are different teaching methods, there is not a unified grading system and there is a big difference between students (BA training: 18-19-year-old, MA training: 23-24-year-old students). According to her, another problem worth mentioning is the lack of legal background of the profession. It means that anyone can translate or interpret, and there are numerous amateurs who undertake the jobs at a low price, and work with poor quality. The third problem Szabó mentions is the monopolistic position of OFFI (Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation Ltd). According to a regulation from 1986, certified translation must be a state monopoly, which brings great profit for the state, but according to Szabó – since translation is a market service –, it is a wrong method.