



ZOLTÁN TÖRÖK

Zoltán Török has been working as an **interpreter** for almost twenty years.

First of all, I aim to focus on his university studies. He graduated from the former *Marx Károly Közgazdaságtudományi Egyetem*, present-day **Corvinus University**, in 1994. His major was **International Relations**. During his university studies he encountered the profession of interpreters as he was very good at German and English languages. At that time he started working for different banks, several ministries and sport events. He was keen on being an interpreter, then interpreters were needed worse than ever. He did not specialize in any fields; he practiced interpreting wherever he could. He adds that interpreters - who have been practicing this profession for ages - did not have the chance to attend any interpreting or translation courses as there were unfortunately none.

His working languages are **Hungarian, German and English**, he interprets both consecutive and simultaneous way. He believes that the former is more tiring than the other.

The following 20 years of his life was rather memorable. He was working as a **soldier in Kosovo and Afghanistan** for a very long time. During this time of course he did not forget about interpreting, sometimes he had the chance to develop his interpreting skills there.

Nowadays he devotes most of his time to **Robert Bosch Electronics Ltd.** in Hatvan. Zoltán works there as an interpreter. This is clearly an engineering and technical field, with which he must be totally familiar in order to work professionally. He interprets for foreign managers and directors - who work there or occasionally visit the plant -, participates in different workshops, meetings and audits. Everyone honors him for his professionalism. Furthermore he also works for other well-known **German companies** and ministries; there he interprets meetings, events and discussions. He is often invited to Germany to interpret in the German Bosch plants.

Zoltán has met and worked with lots of Hungarian and also foreign politicians. He enumerated several of them, but I just want to list the most well-known people of Hungary whom he interpreted: **József Antall, Árpád Göncz, Gyula Horn, Lajos Für, György Keleti, Imre Szekeres, Ferenc Mádl, László Sólyom, Zoltán Balog, Géza Jeszenszky, László Kovács, János Martonyi, Ferenc Juhász.**

Zoltán also told me **stories** which were really fascinating, for example interpreting for the Minister of Defence in the '90s, or the economic conference held in India in which he

participated as an interpreter. Some stories were just hard to believe: once he had to interpret on horseback and on a helicopter during emergency landing. These are just some stories which also make the life of interpreters even more **thrilling**.

We should not forget about his foreign experience as he has interpreted **NATO** and **European Union** events several times.

Interpreting can be really tiring and challenging. Zoltán believes that the **biggest challenge** is to adapt to those situations when the organizers change something shortly before the start of the event. This is the reason why interpreters must be **flexible, easy-going and adaptive**, as anything could happen and you must do your job as good as you can. A professional interpreter must make the best of each event.

Finally Zoltán gives **advice** to those students who want to be interpreters. He suggests having some customers at the beginning who regularly ask for your help. You must be multifaceted. Technological development and the Internet contributed to the fact that the tasks and preparation of interpreters today has become easier than it was before. The first years will certainly be difficult but you should not be afraid of it. **Start practicing!**