Translator Profile: Owen Good

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# Owen Good

* freelance literary translator
* English teacher

Active since 2011.

His working languages are English and Hungarian (HU>EN)

Education:

University College London

Balassi Institute

Work experience:

Pázmány Péter Catholic University

(2014 – present)

International House Language School (April 2012 – July 2013)

Berlitz Hungary Kft.

(October 2011 – August 2012)

LSI Language School London Central (August 2011)

University College London

(20.06.2011)

Research interest:

* English linguistics
* Hungarian language
* Hungarian literature
* Hungarian linguistics
* linguistics
* literary translation
* teaching English as a second language
* translation studies

Knowledge of CAT tools:

* MemoQ

LinkedIn profile:

<https://hu.linkedin.com/in/owen-good-0776a483>

Owen Good is a young freelance translator who was born in Craigavon, Northern Ireland. Both of his parents’ enjoyment of learning languages at school and both of their disappointment of not being able to speak languages did have an effect on him.

He went to University College London where he studied Language and culture. During his studies at UCL, he started with a minor in Spanish and towards the end of university his minor became teaching English as a foreign language.

The reason why he chose Hungarian is particularly interesting: during his time at UCL, students were allowed to study two languages, when he started university he dropped French and continued with Spanish because it was a language more fitted to him, so he needed a new language. He was encouraged to study a language which was less popular, so he looked at the list and did his own research into languages and he was drawn both linguistically and geographically to Hungarian.

*“Choosing translation as a profession just kinda happened.”*

At university they always translated for class and his teacher brought in some good literature and when he graduated, he already recognised that he got a lot of enjoyment out of translation. Moreover, when he moved to Hungary he was trying to improve his Hungarian, so he read Hungarian literature and there were evenings when he was bored, therefore he started translating.

Besides being a translator, he is a teacher at Pázmány Péter Catholic University. He admitted that he always greatly enjoyed teaching since on good days it is the most rewarding job and it is great to work with young and inquisitive people. Furthermore, he holds that it is a good feeling that he dedicates his time to improving somebody’s knowledge of English.

According to him, the best thing about being a translator is that if a translator is lucky enough to get interesting texts to translate, it can be immensely enjoyable – it is almost like a free ride. He adds that sometimes he is fortunate enough to get works from scholars and it is like getting a free tour around a museum: he is learning from these great minds about areas he has never studied himself.

He advises young translators to seek out people or organisations they want to work with, try to be precise, have good relationships with their clients, and try to do their very best even in stressful situations.

Publications:

Tóth, Krisztina: “Churning and other poems”. Asymptote, 2014

Domonkos, István: “Rudderless”. Hungarian Review, 2015

Tóth, Krisztina, Excerpts from: “Pixel”, *Best European Fiction 2016*, Dalkey Archive Press, 2015

Fehér, Renátó, “Heavenly Routine”, Hévíz journal, Hévíz Polgármesteri Hivatal, 2015

Molnár, Vilmos, Novella: “The Ballad of Áblez Dzsihán”, Hévízjournal, Hévíz Polgármesteri Hivatal, 2015