**Interview with translator Dóra Miklódy**

Originally, she graduated with a degree in agricultural sciences, but due to coincidences, she became familiar with her future profession: translation. In parallel with her studies in agriculture, she did the specialized translation programme as well: the university did not want to start the French translation group, unless there were 5 students, so – thanks to the pressure – she applied as fifth and the programme was launched. While the others learned the basics in the first two years, she did the international superlative French language exam and joined the others only for the specialised translation courses. Her child’s birth crossed her plans regarding a career in research, but that was the point, when she turned to translation. In order to supplement her degree in sciences with a degree in humanities, she continued her studies at Károli Gáspár University’s terminology MA programme.

Her previous jobs were also tightly connected to languages and health care, giving her a lot of valuable experience and a proper foundation for her future career in translation. Currently, she teaches the use of CAT tools for translation students at Szent István Egyetem’s Faculty of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism and also at KRE’s postgraduate translation programme.

Her diploma in engineering harmonizes with her chosen field of specialization in translation: she works primarily with scientific and medical texts. She speaks German, English and French. Although she uses English the most, her favourite is German. In connection with this, an interesting fact came up during the interview. It seems to her that the impact of Brexit is already tangible. The number of German translations has been increasing, while the internal communication of international companies shifts towards German, after the long English “hegemony”.

What she likes most about her job is the constant learning process, for example during a research before translating. Although she does not consider the translation of manuals and assembly guides as the most exciting part of her job, she loves the challenge of the confidential assignments.

In connection with translation, the questions of solitude and monotony often arise. She says that new hobbies may help in these situations: for example in her case these are teaching and farming. “Everybody is different and everybody should find the best solution for him/herself. But everybody needs a hobby, an activity with others perhaps” – adds Dóra. If she has time for it, she also translates literature, in various topics. They are considered to be a bit more “lasting” works, especially if one sees his/her name in printing. Furthermore, it perfectly completes specialised translation and is good for filling those rare spare moments. She translated several books thanks to her hobbies: this is how she translated a book in connection with sailing and another with knitting. She considers the translation of Rolf Vollmann’s book, entitled *In* *Darwin’s Steps* (*Die Reise um die Welt. Darwin nachgereist*) as one of her outstanding works. She believes that the profession cannot be “put down”, as a conventional job: whether it is about a restaurant’s menu or reading a book, the critical view of the translators’ and reviewers’ is always present.

“What makes a good translator?” – the question may arise. In connection with the most important qualities of a translator, she mentions the humble attitude towards the profession and the capability of excluding the outer world when translating. Furthermore, she emphasises the importance of the proper use of new technologies. “Many were born with smartphones in their hands, still, they cannot search properly. This is something, I am trying to work on with my students as well.” Staying within the topic of technology, another interesting question is worth discussing: with the rapid development of technology, the work of translators might be redundant in the future. In Dóra’s opinion, there will be things that won’t need human capacity, but a machine will never be able to translate metaphors or shades of meanings, since they are unable to identify the deeper layers of meaning, in many cases. As an interesting fact, she mentions the difference between the two search engines, Google and Bingle: their translation is based on different philosophies, when translating into languages that distinguish grammatical gender, Bing regards God as a woman, while Google considers God to be a man.

For career starters, she suggests the translation of *pro bono* cases: the versatile texts are usually not to long but interesting. She highlights the importance of attending conferences: they are excellent opportunities for students for making connections and getting into the circulation. The motto should be: “perseverance!”

In conclusion I would like to say that I am very grateful to Dóra for letting me see a professional translator’s everyday life and work and for giving me some useful advice.