

THE JOB OF THE TRANSLATION COORDINATOR

—Elis Carlström (edited slightly in 2012)

The Translation Coordinator has five jobs:

1. To think about translations and translators as RC Community work indispensable for the growth of the Community, and as an opportunity for the whole Community to re-emerge from oppression (language oppression, classism, educational system oppression)

2. To keep a list of what has been and is being translated, and to make a list of what needs to be translated next (in consultation with the RRP).

This avoids duplication of work.

3. To approve translations for publication

This is not the job of editing translations. This is a simple job of saying yes or no to a translation, to approve if it is useful and to say no if it needs more work before it can be used.

4. To keep and revise a list of RC terms as RC develops

This should be a very short list of the most central terms — words that have a very specific and strictly defined RC meaning, such as “discharge,” “counselor,” etc.

5. To encourage wide participation in and prompt publication of good translations.

These simple jobs are all that is required of you. You can choose to edit translations in order to improve them for publication, but you don't have to do this. In fact, I would advise you not to do too much editing. I used to edit every translation I got, even some very bad translations that took a very long time to get right. Often it would have been easier and faster to translate everything from the beginning. I learned a lot by doing it, but I don't recommend that you do this.

What I do now if I get a translation that needs big improvements before it can be used is: I edit a small part of the translation as an example of what needs to be done. I put some question marks on other places that need improvement. Then I send the translation back, telling the translator that this is an example of what needs to be done with the translation. I ask the translator to work with the translation along these lines or to find somebody who wants to help to do

this. Sometimes I never get the translation back. (The person has found out that it is more work to do a translation than she thought it would take. And I understand that very well, because it is a lot of work.) In other cases, I get back a much improved translation, and if I get a second translation from this person, that translation is usually much better from the start.

There are a number of things that have to be done to layout and print translations. As a Translations Coordinator, you do not have to do or organize any of these jobs, but you can if you want to. I would again advise you to train other people to do these jobs. You will probably have a number of Co-Counselors who think that translations are very important but who cannot translate themselves. These people can help with all these practical jobs of getting the translations published and distributed. People who cannot read English can also help by reading the final translations and commenting on things that need to be improved in the translation.

How are Translation Coordinators selected? A Translation Coordinator should be a person who understands RC theory very well and who is willing to fight to keep it accurate. It is good to get some experience of translating yourself before becoming a Translation Coordinator. It is an advantage if you are able to write well in your own language. Translation Coordinators are approved by Tim Jackins, the International Reference Person.

SUPPORTING TRANSLATORS

What about supporting translators? Is that not a job the Translation Coordinator should do? I have purposely not included it in the list of jobs you have to do; you can if you want to. (There is a Translations Coordinator at Rational Island Publishers—currently Truus Jansen—who is able to provide some support to translators. You can contact her at: <irc@rc.org>) It can be a stimulating job. Basically, you do it in the same way as you do all other Co-Counseling activities. You do not have to know a lot about translating. What you need to do is to be a good counselor. Listen to the person. This can often be done over the phone. You do not need to do it yourself. You can ask the translator to find a counselor who will devote some time to this project.

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Often only a few minutes on the phone will enable the translator to get out of restimulation enough to continue working.

Generally you should support people who do a lot of good work. People who demand support as a prerequisite to doing something for the Community, whether it is translations or something else, should generally be told to start working first. People often forget to use counseling tools when it comes to translations. So the most important thing you can do is just to remind people to use these tools. The format for doing this can be individual support, workshops, Wygelian groups, or support groups. (Also see: "Rethinking Community, and Interpreting and Translations," by Xabi Odriozola, *Present Time* #169, October 2012.)

NATURALIZING RC — LOCAL NEWSLETTERS

There is a need for translations, but there is also a need for writing about RC theory in each language by people speaking this language. *Present Time* is a very good magazine. I love it and learn a lot from it each time. But I do not think that we have to translate everything in *Present Time*. Instead of doing this, we must try to inspire people to write, themselves, in their own language. This will not eliminate the need for translations, but it will be an important complement to them. We need to hear about counseling in our own language, with examples from our own culture. This will make RC easier to understand, and it will be easier to reach more varied groups of people.

It is not your job as a Translation Coordinator to do this. A much larger number of people are able to write than are able to translate. There are resources available to do this without you having to stretch yourself to the impossible. However, I want you to be aware of how important this is. And that by giving people translated literature it will make it easier for them to write about counseling.

HELP TO PUT TOGETHER AN RC GLOSSARY

One of the jobs of the Translation Coordinator is to put together a glossary. Such a glossary should include words that have a very specific RC meaning. We need to agree on the meaning of these words to be able to communicate well about RC theory. Below is a first attempt to make such a list of RC words. These words should be translated in the same way, at least most of the time. There are a number of other words not included in this list that are often used in

RC and that can be useful to have an explanation for and a translation of. But for translation purposes, it is necessary to be flexible about how this last category of words should be translated depending on the context.

Translate the words below or add the translations that you already use in your own language. If Co-Counseling is new in your language you might find it difficult at first to find translations for these words. There are probably no good translations available. What you will have to do is to take existing words and give them a special RC meaning. With time, people in counseling will get used to using the words. There will probably be some different opinions about the translations. Some translations will probably be changed at a later date. However, it is important that all counseling teachers try to use the agreed-upon list until it is changed. Some opinions about words will change with discharge.

I have tried to indicate where you can find definitions for these words. There are definitions of these words in the *2009 Guidelines for the RC Communities* (marked with a G), *The Postulates of Re-evaluation Counseling* found in the 2010 revised edition of *The Human Situation* (marked with P), and *The List* (marked with L). Additional descriptions that might be easier to understand for the fundamental words can be found in *The Human Side of Human Beings*. Many of the words defined in *The List* are described in more detail elsewhere in RC literature.

When you want to translate the word in this glossary, it can be important to remember that some of the words are used both as verbs and nouns (for example "a client" and "to client"). There will sometimes have to be different translations for the two functions (for example, in English, you cannot say "to direction"; you have to say "to hold a direction").

Alternate Area Reference Person (G)

Alternate International Reference Person (G)

Area Reference Person (G)

attention (P)

client (a client, to client) (P)

Co-Counsel (P)

commitment (L)

contradiction (G)

contradict (a pattern) (P)
counselor (P)
counsel (P)
chronic pattern (L)
direction (G)
discharge (a discharge, to discharge) (P)
discussion group (RC-type) (G)
distress (P)
free attention (L)
frozen needs (L)
guidelines (G)
intelligence (G)
intermittent pattern (L)
internalized oppression (L)
International Reference Person (G)
oppression (G)
oppress (L)
liberation (from oppression) (L)
organized Area (G)
pattern (P)
rational (P)
RC Communities (G)
RC class (G)
RC teacher (G)
re-evaluation (G)
Re-evaluation Counseling (G)
recording (P)
record (distress) (P)
re-emerge (P)
re-emergence (G)
Region (G)
Regional Reference Person (G)
restimulation (P)
self-estimation (G)
session (P)
support group (G)
think and listen (L)
topic group (L)
workshop (international, Regional, Local, Area, liberation) (G)
Wygelian group (G)