

**The New Global Economy and the Future Prospects
for the Graduates as Translators – Interpreters. Job
Opportunities, Needs and Requirements of the
Global Market. Mittal Steel (Ispat) - Annaba as a
Model.**

**Bouledroua Nadjib
Université Annaba**

Résumé:

In the emerging global economy, Algeria following the new measures taken by the developing countries, has felt compelled to leave isolation and to go global. This country has introduced serious political and economic liberalization. It has a huge public sector and the government is now facing an enormous problem with unemployment. With 95% of the public companies within the global market, the government has decided not to help anymore.

What needs to happen to save these companies is to privatize and to build a partnership with foreign investors.

Since the arrival of Mittal Steel as a foreign partner in El-Hadjar- the steel making plant, there was an urgent need for Algerian translators and interpreters to ensure communication between expatriates and their Algerian counterpart.

This paper will look at the future prospects for our graduates, in terms of potential job opportunities, qualifications, needs and requirements of the global market.

Questions are asked. Do our graduates with an option in translation or interpreting have the right knowledge that makes them suitable for the position? Is there university education a guaranty for a successful career? Are they fully in control of

the languages being used in translation? Do they fit the requirements of their local or foreign employer?

Communication:

As the world is moving forward toward one global market, Algeria is showing a willingness to join the World Trade Organization, and its multilateral organizations. Though reforms have been introduced, the W.T.O says there is still much to do. At this present time our country is still denied admittance. In answering our Ministry's call for reforms regarding the restructuring of our university education system that in the near future will be considering the obtaining of three university degrees: L.M.D, the C.P.N. (National Pedagogical board of Translation) was given responsibility to set up the new program of licence. The members of this board have met on many occasions in the last few months, and they are making good progress in putting the last final points. Hopefully by September 2006 the L.M.D. system will be applied.

How to save one's soul? Is partnership a real way out?

In the course of these reforms and changes, there is a growing hope to save the Algerian public and private enterprises which according to our Minister in charge of privatization remain incapable of maintaining their high productive capacity. To save them the government is desperately looking to build ties of partnership with foreign investors. A rescue operation to save the shaky non productive enterprises and institutions that are in need of western funds and know how. Some critics say this is not the solution to guarantee success and economic prosperity to the poor countries in a new global order having America as a global leader.

As a matter of fact, the world is still fumbling in darkness while American values of free competition (

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Telecommunications, Internet, Advanced Computer Technology) are exported throughout the world.

The slow development of this country is partly due to its past isolationism and to the recent refusal of such calls for reforms. With a failing traditional economy and an education system that needs to be quickly corrected, can this country win the new global challenge?

The purpose of this paper is not to stop the present flow of the new world order, whether we think of it as a safe route to a new prosperous global market, or a new form of imperialism, it doesn't matter. Like it or hate it. Globalization is already there. It is happening. It is going too fast. Some have insisted that "it is irreversible and irrevocable". What needs to happen is to take action. and be competitive.

To ensure economic survival and to hope for a better future for our graduates and educated

Elite in terms of job opportunities is to be linked with the world. Isolation is in no way a desirable option.

Where do our graduates as translators-interpreters stand with Globalization? Is there university education a guaranty for a successful career?

Globalization deals with the economic matters, but is indeed a multidimensional set of social process, that reach the economic, political, cultural, technological and ecological dimensions of social life. A new world order based primarily on competition, know how and creativity to sell products and ideas in a global market designed and controlled by the fittest.

To meet their foreign employer's requirements when applying for a position, our graduates as translators-interpreters must speak fluent English and French. Abroad job offer meets with the condition of mastering more than two languages with a training or a memoir, and a compulsory knowledge in computers. This is not the case when foreign

companies recruiting Algerian translators (Mittal Steel – Annaba) consider the degree of licence in translation or in English as the first priority for recruitment. No prerequisites related to steel industry are required. During the interview with the foreign employer, on top of a test in translation to evaluate the applicant's abilities in the field, questions about international affairs, Globalization and world current events as religious and ethnic conflicts are asked.

To secure a position for our future graduates as translators or interpreters' with local or foreign partners in a world of fierce competition, is to provide them with the well adopted programs that should be shaped by the specialists of translation. In addition to the existing modules in translation classes, the introduction in the curriculum of graduation of a module in "Globalization Studies" will undoubtedly give the students the opportunity to understand the mechanisms controlling the new technologically sophisticated modern world. Furthermore, as economic and political relations between countries become important, so is the need to understand the other nations in terms of ethnicity, power, cultural representation and identity, a module in "International Studies" will surely help the students forge their own critics about the new changing world. In this context, theoretical approaches of eminent thinkers will give them a boost. Students who enrol in translation classes should be given the opportunity to travel abroad to build alliances with teachers and researchers in renown foreign universities. What's the need to train students and when they graduate they meet with no satisfactory premises of recruitment?

The priority project is to revamp the graduate's capacities. An ideal effective syllabus (with an obligatory period of training or a memoir) calls for an approach to develop the student's individual potentialities. Undoubtedly,

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the L.M.D system will suit the Algerian students who enrol in translation classes. How to “translate” it into a successful system. That’s the question!

Do our graduates as translators-interpreters fit the requirements of their foreign employer?

What is expected from partnership?

According to our Minister in charge of reforms, there are 88 public enterprises that are listed for sell. The Iron and Steel Plant of El-Hadjar – Annaba, following the government’s privatization program saw the arrival of Mittal Steel (Ispat) as a foreign partner. This company is specialised in steel making and its capacity of production per year is 1.8 million tonnes. Since the arrival of this company there was an urgent call for Algerian translators and interpreters to ensure communication between expatriates and their Algerian counterpart.

Having said earlier that prerequisites related to steel making industry were not required, the control of the languages : Arabic, French and English is obligatory. When the translator is given the position after an interview that takes place in the main office of the company is oriented to one of the departments: Operation Department, Finance Department Marketing Department Administration Department... These are the main departments existing inside the plant, but the translator can be asked to join other units or structures, each of them handles different tasks such as the Logistics and Oxygen Units.

On inquiry, we found that translation is needed in this plant as the Indian partners don’t speak Arabic or French. We’ve been told that technical translation constitutes 80 % of the translator’s activity. As the translator enters the plant with no learning in industry, he is asked to know all the process of production in each department or unit, then know about the installations, assemblies, and spare parts. As one foreign

partner said “when your graduates are recruited they are required to know from the bolt up to the installations”. In the Marketing Department for instance, the translator is expected to play an important role in ensuring communication between customers and department members and to know about the products, their names and their technical specification.

As in Finance Department, the translator is supposed to know all transactions, finance activities, bill passing and cheque documents. He is required to master finance items in addition to other terms related to marketing and production.

We have noticed that in Mittal Steel-Annaba as there's no clear cut between the different departments and units, the translator is required to have a global knowledge about all the different departments and their activities.

Following the mail sent to our department by the Director of the Finance Department concerning the activities of the Algerian translators in his company, he admits among other things that “their contribution is useful to the company”.

What is required from Mittal Steel-Annaba in this context of partnership is to provide objectively some specific advantages for this country, like imparting training to the students and opening new prospects for them.

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