

George May

Summary

I am a professional translator, editor, reviser and proofreader, working from French and German into English.

My interest in languages springs from the earlier part of my professional life, in which I worked as a very senior consulting engineer; this included assignments overseas. I have considerable specialised vocabulary and working experience.

French and German language skills and experience

- Freelance translator working for various English, French and German clients and agencies. I have recently translated (directly or indirectly) for, among others: ArcelorMittal, Aerogen, Aéroport de Nice, Airbus Defence and Space, Areva, CEA (France), CNES (France), Daher, Doepke, EADS Astrium, EDF, Electriciens sans frontières, E.ON, the European Commission, Framatome, GDF, Honeywell, IKEA, Kion, Klöckner, Lecomte and Partners (patent agents) Linde, Mettler Toledo, Liebherr, MSF, Orano, L'Oréal, Renault, SNCF, SNECMA
(2009 - Present)
- Staff translator with Praetorius SAS in France, undertaking translation and liaison interpreting work for clients including: Altran, Areva, CEA, Crouzet Forge, Daher, Desdoigts, Gemalto, Publicis and Renault. (2009 - 2010)
- As part of my MA I worked for three weeks in the PR department of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg where I translated, edited, revised and proofread policy statements, press releases and promotional material of all kinds. (2009)

My basic foreign language skills were gained at work, during business and technical assignments throughout my engineering career, during which I worked abroad on consultancy projects in Algeria, Germany and France. For instance, I was responsible for:

- Documenting the specification for a new set of computer facilities for the Eurocontrol Experimental Centre near Paris. Eurocontrol is responsible for air traffic control over Europe. The project was carried out, and documented, in English, French and German.
- Designing, setting up and managing a new software product development environment for Norsk Data's CAD (mechanical engineering) product division of forty staff in Mülheim in Germany. The work and documentation was mostly in German.
- Improving the Algerian air traffic control (ATC) authority. I reported on the effectiveness of the Algerian ATC system, and proposed improvements to equipment and procedures. I reported to the Algerian management and wrote reports in both English and French.

English language skills and experience

To date I have had to read and assimilate long and detailed texts written by government, business and industry; I have also had to write all sorts of documents: sales proposals, marketing materials, management reports, specifications of requirements and technical designs. These documents were often written for different readerships, and to achieve different aims; all had to be in the appropriate register, correct, complete and convincing.

What makes me different?

- I have a perfect command of English and an excellent knowledge of French and German.
- I have a wide understanding of IT, engineering, business and management terminology.
- I am enthusiastic, extremely hardworking, utterly reliable and a fast worker.
- I am no stranger to the world of work. I deal with deadlines, emergencies, and changes of plan confidently. You can trust me completely.

Career summary

2009 – Present	Freelance translator
2009 – 2010	Staff translator at Praetorius France SAS
2008 – 2009	MA (with distinction) in Translation and Professional Language skills at the University of Bath
2005 – 2008	Self-employed IT consultant, managing the preparation of technical proposals for clients, as well as drafting, editing and proofreading their contents.
1999 – 2005	Principal Consultant with the Newburn Consulting , then IPL Information Processing Ltd and then the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Southampton
1984 – 1998	Senior Project Manager, later Marketing Manager, then Principal Consultant with Praxis plc, Bath (now part of the French Altran group)
1970 – 1984	Various grades, rising to Principal Consultant, with Software Sciences Ltd, Farnborough (now part of IBM)

Professional qualifications and affiliations

Chartered Engineer (CEng)	Since 1976
European Engineer (Eur Ing)	Since 1990
Fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (FIEE, now renamed FIET)	Since 1995
Visiting Professor of Software Engineering, University of Strathclyde	1984 – 1991

Educational qualifications

MA (with distinction)		
Translation and Professional Language Skills	(University of Bath)	2009
CELTA Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (Pass B)		
	(University of Cambridge)	2005
MSc Information and Systems Engineering	(University of Birmingham)	1967
BSc Electrical Engineering	(University of Bristol)	1966

Formal language qualifications

German	Goethe-Institut Stufe M3	2008
Italian	GCSE (Grade A)	2007
German	A-Level (Grade A)	1993
French	A-Level (Grade A)	1989

References

You can see comments from my clients on my work [here](#), on my Proz website. On request I am happy to provide academic and professional references, to supply evidence of my qualifications and examples of my work, and to give full details of my engineering career.