

Charles Robson

Former Head of Languages, WHO Regional Office for Europe

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Summary

A qualified translator into English from French, German, Russian and Danish, with extensive experience in the areas of editing and report-writing, I have recently retired from my position as Head, Languages at the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe. My 35-year career to date has spanned employment as a staff member of specialized agencies of the United Nations and commercial firms, as well as freelance work.

I am a member of the United Kingdom Chartered Institute of Linguists (MCIL) and the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (MITI).

I am currently available for freelance translation, editing and report-writing assignments.

Experience

Head, Languages at World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe

March 2002 - December 2012 (10 years 10 months)

Management:

- Ensured the smooth running of the Languages (LNG) section.
- Acted as first-level supervisor of all staff in the English group and of the leaders of other language groups. Submitted recommendations to the Director, Division of Evidence, Information and Research (DIR) on appointments, salary increments, changes of contractual status and other personnel matters. Planned staff training. On the basis of workload projections, estimated the section's temporary assistance and outside translation requirements. Signed contracts for temporary assistance and outside translation/revision on behalf of the Organization. Monitored progress of work. Reviewed and, if necessary, revised texts produced by temporary or freelance translators and editors.

Documentation:

- Planned and oversaw the production of documentation for the Organization's regional governing bodies.
- Briefed and acted as first point of contact with the reports team at the Regional Committee, and compiled and edited its report.
- Acted as rapporteur to the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee.

Editing:

- Edited all English original material prepared in connection with sessions of the Organization's regional governing bodies and major conferences.

Translation:

- Translated into English from French, German and Russian a wide variety of texts dealing with health and related subjects, as well as administrative, financial and legal matters. As a self-revising translator, produced elegant, concise and accurate translations that were not subject to further review.

Innovation:

- Ensured greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the section's operations by contributing to the introduction and development of innovative procedures and computerized systems in the following fields: aids to translation, terminological and reference data, document planning and monitoring.

Editor/Translator/Reviser (English) at World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe

March 1987 - February 2002 (15 years)

- Edited documentation for the Organization's regional governing bodies.
- Translated a wide variety of texts from French, German and Russian into English.
- Ensured the smooth and consistent flow of documentation through the Translation and Editorial sub-unit.

Editor/Translator/Reviser (English) at World Health Organization

March 1984 - February 1987 (3 years)

- Translated a wide variety of technical and other documents into English from French, German and Russian (at EURO) and from French (at AFRO).
- Edited English documents in accordance with WHO's rules.

Translator (English) at Sogelerg

October 1982 - February 1984 (1 year 5 months)

- Translated from French into English technical, commercial and other documents related to the consulting engineering services offered by the SOGELERG group of companies

Translator at Freelance

July 1981 - October 1982 (1 year 4 months)

- Translated a wide variety of documents from French into English for WHO/AFRO, UNESCO, Otis Elevators, legal firms, translation agencies and private clients.

Translator/Reviser (English) at World Health Organization, Regional Office for Africa

April 1977 - October 1980 (3 years 7 months)

- Responsible for the technical and administrative management of the English translation sub-unit.
- Translated from French into English a variety of technical and other documents.
- Revised translations made by freelance and junior translators.

- Edited translated texts for publication.
 - Provided simultaneous interpretation at internal meetings.
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Publications

WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Report of the sixty-second session (Malta, September 2012)

November 15, 2012

Authors: Charles Robson

The official report of the annual meeting of the World Health Organization's governing body for the European Region, attended by representatives of 53 Member States and numerous intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Languages

French

German

Russian

Danish

Skills & Expertise

Translation

Technical Translation

Legal Translation

Medical Translation

Translation Memory

French to English

Russian to English

German to English

Danish to English

French

Russian

English

Editing

Report Writing

Education

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Postgraduate diploma, Russian Language and Literature, 1980 - 1981

University of Edinburgh

Master of Arts (MA), French with European Law, 1970 - 1974

Grade: 2.1

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[Contact Charles on LinkedIn](#)