

Ben Jones: Curriculum Vitae

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Born: 1966 in Britain

Home pages: japanesetranslations.co.uk & ozaru.net

Family: Married (to Japanese national), 2 children

Postal address: Street Acre, St Nicholas-at-Wade, BIRCHINGTON, CT7 0NG, UK

Summary: a qualified, professional Japanese linguist having over 30 years' experience in translation, interpreting and typesetting, with excellent organizational and IT skills and a broad scope of interests, knowledge and contacts.

• Work history

1990-present Interpreting (inc. remote), translating, typesetting and consulting: BJ Translations Ltd

Customers include UK/Japanese national and regional governments, dozens of lawyers' offices and financial institutions, the European Patent Office, Microsoft, the BBC, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Disney, Marvel Studios, Michelin, Dentsu, Tate Modern/Louis Vuitton (KUSAMA Yayoi, MORIYAMA Daidō), the International Chamber of Commerce, and others in over 25 countries. Topics handled include arbitration, mediation, taxation, law, investor relations, shipping, aviation, defence, patents, automotive & other engineering, telecoms, films, computing, electronics, insurance, art, culture, fashion, tourism, sports, environment, fine wine, cooking, PR, etc.

(Interpret regularly at \$bn-level arbitrations in London, Qatar, San Francisco, Singapore, etc. – see feedback below.)

Incidental work includes lectures on translation-related topics at the Language Show, the annual International Japanese-English Translation conference, ITI and Bath / Leeds University events, Business Link, etc.

2008-present Publishing: Ozaru Books (over 25 books, focused on East Kent, East Prussia & East Asia)

2014 (2 months) Lead translator at Fieldfisher (City lawyers) for large Japanese legal project (shipping/aviation)

2013-2015 Director of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (UK professional association) – also for many years coordinator of ITI Japanese Network, ITI membership committee member, applicant assessor, etc.

1987-1990 Freelance translating / interpreting / coordination in Tokyo, Hiroshima, Edinburgh, Avignon

1986-1987 Agriculture in Atarashiki-mura, Saitama

1984 (7 months) Translation / software development / customer service in Schloß Elmau, Bavaria

• Main published translations

English translation of “The Way of the Ninja” by HATSUMI Masaaki, published by Kodansha International

English translation of “Sanmyaku” journal by HATSUMI Masaaki, published independently in 15 countries

Numerous exhibition catalogues and related materials (translated from Japanese and German) for Domaine Chambord, the Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney), Fondation Cartier, Frankfurt Museum of World Culture, Phaidon Press, etc.

• Skills

Bilingual in Japanese & English, working knowledge of German, French, Spanish, Welsh

Competent typesetter in Chinese, Korean, Thai, Russian, Ukrainian, etc.

Expert computer user since 1980s (including current Microsoft & Adobe packages)

• Qualifications, awards, etc.

Fellow of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting for J→E and E→J translation (first & only non-Japanese person qualified for both directions); ex-coordinator & webmaster of ITI Japanese Network

Winner of ITI Japanese Network 1st and many subsequent translation competitions (E→J, experienced division)

Winner of ITI Japanese Network 1st and many subsequent translation competitions (J→E, experienced division)

Winner of ProZ.com 6th translation competition (E→J)

Runner-up in Sir Peter Parker Awards for Spoken Business Japanese

Runner-up in Kurodahan Press translation competition (J→E)

Member of the Translators Association of the Society of Authors

15th Dan instructor of the martial art of Bujinkan Dōjō Budō Taijutsu

Associated Board Grade 8 (Distinction) for piano, violin and viola

Full & clean driving licence

• Referees

Supplied on request; see overleaf and “[testimonials](#)” section on website.

• Academic history

1976-1983 King's School, Canterbury; 'A'-levels: French (+S), German (+S), Maths, Further Maths, Music

Sep. 1984 Won scholarship to New College, Oxford to study Japanese

Sep. 1985 Transferred to Centre for Japanese Studies at the University of Sheffield

• Interests

Music (part-time professional, leading various orchestras & [chamber groups](#)), puzzles (UK Rubik's Cube and Rubik's Revenge finalist), [Hoodening](#) (ancient Kentish folk custom), gorillas (twice top fundraiser), martial arts, community groups, programming



• Sample CPD

- Daily practice in Japanese (as language of habitual use) with local native speakers
- Daily use of both Japanese and English websites to research specialist topics for particular assignments
- Daily use of technical websites / RSS feeds / social media to keep abreast of changes in industry, technology etc.
- Daily bilingual interaction with other native speakers and professional linguists via ITI Japanese Network
- Frequent interaction with native speakers and subject specialists on interpreting assignments
- Attendance at wide variety of ITI conferences / events

• Selected testimonials

Legal interpreting at arbitrations or in court:

*"I record my particular thanks to our interpreter, Mr Ben Jones, for his assistance, which was of the **highest and most seamless quality**" [Mr Justice Andrew Baker, Judge in charge of the Admiralty Court, <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admlty/2023/697.html>]*

*"Fantastic translator in complex case. **Cannot recommend highly enough.**" [Franz Schwarz, Vice-Chair International Arbitration Group at WilmerHale, 2022]*

*"Everyone on my side thought you were **really incredible**. We really loved working with you. Everyone really was just so positive about your work." [US lawyer for other side in same arbitration]*

*"Needless to say your English is perfect, but your Japanese was **perfect** too. And the timing to deliver your interpretation was so quick and prompt that **everything flowed very smoothly** at a really good rhythm. And we could see that you had the right background information ... so we appreciated the diligence that you performed prior to participating in this hearing. ... You operated under a really tight schedule, with a lot of pressure ... It was particularly important, given the complexity of the case. And not just our team, but our client representatives expressly commented that they liked your interpretation, so we were very grateful. And the witnesses themselves: they trusted your interpretation very much. For example [...] and [...] expressly commented to us that they liked your interpretation." [Japanese lawyer in same arbitration]*

*"We were **extremely impressed** and grateful for your efforts and – speaking for myself – I thought your translations were the most natural and easy to follow. It was an extremely difficult exercise (it is hard to think of a more difficult topic) and I was very impressed at how well it worked." [UK lawyer in same arbitration]*

*"The substance of much of the testimony was quite difficult, given the nature of the legal issues. We had experienced difficulties with numerous translators ... who just weren't able to get it because of the complexity of the nuance of the subject matter ... you seemed to be able to handle it seamlessly. Additionally, [...] is a particularly difficult critic, uniquely situated as perhaps the most fluent bilingual Japanese attorney on planet Earth, [and] you were probably the first person able to at least satisfy [...]’s **extremely high standards**." [US lawyer in same arbitration]*

*"Please note that you are the **top interpreter in our list**. We hope that we can work together in another case in the near future." [Japanese lawyer regarding 2018 arbitration]*

*"Our legal team, arbitrators and Japanese clients were all hugely impressed with Ben Jones's interpretation at an LMAA Arbitration [...] We have worked with a number of interpreters (of all languages) in the past and Ben was **undoubtedly the best – quite exceptional**. He was able to sense when the witnesses felt confident speaking in English – using him for the translation of an occasional word – and when they preferred to speak in their native tongue. His interpretation was quick, clear and accurate. Highly recommended." [Joanna Hoyle, Solicitor, Clyde & Co., 2008]*

Financial, technical and other interpreting:

*"I have worked with Ben for 13 years and have always been impressed with his ability to deal with fast paced translation in an unflustered manner. Ben is the **best Japanese translator I have worked with** in both the U.K. and Japan. Ben also does everything to accommodate changing schedules and is flexible with last minute changes where possible. He is also great company in meetings that can last many days." [Dominic Vines, International Tax Specialist, HMRC]*

*"Ben rescued us when we were looking for a technical pharmaceutical interpreter at very short notice. Despite not being an expert in pharma, Ben digested the source material in a very short time span, and **performed flawlessly** over two solid days of challenging meetings with investors. Ben is a professional, faithful interpreter, who we hope to engage again, irrespective of the subject matter (He's also a very nice chap)." [Jonathan Gibbard, Japanese Equities, Mizuho Securities]*

*"I will gladly recommend you to anyone seeking English/Japanese translation, you have been **a crucial asset** in enabling the good communication between the various stakeholders in this complicated case." [SS, regarding automotive regulatory case]*

*"... I am however confident that we will be able to sign this contract. This is ... partly because we have with us today Mr Jones, a **trustworthy interpreter** who fully comprehends the current scheme." [YH, Japanese government agency, during speech in UK]*

"I am always relieved to see Ben here, because I know that our negotiations will be successful" [K, Japanese government agency, during negotiations in Dublin]

*"Thanks so much for ... above all, your fantastic support during our Japan meeting. The benefit to us all was immense – and the comments we received from the Japanese team were a real testament to your **great interpreting skills!** ... It was certainly most fruitful for us." [AF, precious metals group, London]*

*"I gather from the team that you were a 'star' and **extremely helpful** not only in your excellent translating skills but demeanour and calmness throughout the day which helped both teams." [KSC, consultant, London]*

“Ben has provided **excellent interpretation services** in the transfer pricing area. He has several times during interpretation sessions also shown (beside his interpretation skills in Japanese-English) that he very well understands the transactions and calculations that are being discussed. I give Ben my best recommendations!” [Elisabeth Bengtsson, Swedish Tax Agency]

“Ben has provided Japanese / English translation services for a number of transfer pricing negotiations in which I have taken part. Ben's translation is **quick and efficient** and his knowledge of technical terminology, in what is a very specialised area of international taxation, is excellent. Ben is **discreet** and well able to judge the appropriate mood during long and often complex meetings. I would highly recommend his translation services.” [Keith Walsh, Irish Revenue]

“So you must be a patent attorney too?” [patent attorney client finding it hard to believe a mere interpreter can be fluent in Japanese, patentese & pharmaceuticalese]

“[Our client] said: ‘**Really excellent** – he turned what could have been a long and difficult meeting into a quick and easy meeting – really grateful for his interpreting skills.’ So thanks very much! They're one of our biggest customers, so it's nice to keep them happy.” [JR, translation agency, London]

“Feedback from the client: ‘I just wanted to let you know that I was very impressed with Ben on this call, he handled a tricky call, that had many different people and was quite technical in its content, very well. My client was also equally impressed and labelled him **‘brilliant’!** Please pass on our thanks and we would definitely like to use him again for any Japanese translations.’” [ZG, translation agency, Macclesfield]

Written translation etc.:

“We do have hundreds of translators on our books, but unfortunately nobody else of your calibre.” [AD, translation agency, London]

“All ten articles were quite interesting, but amongst them your Japanese was the best, **absolutely wonderful**. There are some Japanese authors I think ought to read it! I hope there will be an opportunity to have you write for us again in the future.” [YN, magazine publisher, Tokyo]

“I had a meeting in London with a Japanese company that came over to see me as a direct result of your translations. They were very surprised to find that the translations had been done by an English translator ... They were very complimentary regarding the quality of the presentation. This letter is just to thank you for a superb job.” [MH, exporter, Kent (UK)]

“Thank you for the sample translation. Our Japanese Rep concluded that your translation was **the best** of the ones that we had done.” [SO, silicon chip manufacturer, USA]

“Your translation looks great (**much better than the original!**)” [OS, translation agency, USA]

“The calligraphy was **brilliant**, a work of art. Tanaka was very pleased with it: he thought we had sent to Japan to have it done! Once again, a sincere thank-you.” [SG, martial arts group, London]

“This is probably the most **expert and comprehensive** reply I've ever had to a request – many thanks! I do appreciate the trouble you've taken.” [ME, translation agency, Preston (UK)]

“Thank you very much for the high quality of your work. Our client has just come back to us to say that they were very impressed, and will be sending some more within the next couple of days.” [KF, translation agency, Luton (UK)]

• Snapshots: at governmental negotiations in Berlin, Brussels and Madrid, and with clients in art/finance/commerce

