Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for “May Fifth”) is a celebration held on May 5. It is celebrated in
the United States and regionally in Mexico, primarily in the state of Puebla, where the holiday
is called El Día de la Batalla de Puebla (the Day of the Battle of Puebla). It originated with
Mexican-American communities in the American West as a way to commemorate the cause
of freedom and democracy during the first years of the American Civil War. Today the date
is observed in the United States as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride. In the state
of Puebla, the date is observed to commemorate the Mexican army’s unlikely victory over
French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of General Ignacio
Zaragoza Seguín. Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico’s Independence Day—the most important
national patriotic holiday in Mexico—which is celebrated on September 16.

Observances:
United States
The American Cinco de Mayo celebration originated in the Mexican-American communities
of the American West, SouthWest and Northwest in the 1860s. It grew in popularity and
evolved into a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, first in the areas with large Mexican-
American populations, like Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston. Eventually it expanded across
the United States. On June 7, 2005, the U.S. Congress issued a Concurrent Resolution calling
on the President of the United States to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the
United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In a 1998, a study in the Journal of American Culture, it was reported that there were more than
120 official U.S. celebrations of Cinco de Mayo, and they could be found in 21 different states.

An update in 2006 found that the number of official Cinco de Mayo events was 150 or more,
according to José Alamillo, professor of ethnic studies at Washington State University in
Pullman, who has studied the cultural impact of Cinco de Mayo north of the border.

In the United States Cinco de Mayo has taken on a significance beyond that in Mexico.
Celebrations tend to draw both from traditional Mexican symbols, such as the Virgin of
Guadalupe, and from prominent figures of Mexican descent in the United States, including
César Chávez. To celebrate, many display Cinco de Mayo banners while school districts
hold special events to educate students about its historical significance. Special events and
celebrations highlight Mexican culture, especially in its music and regional dancing. Examples
include baile folklórico and mariachi demonstrations held annually at the Plaza del Pueblo de
Los Angeles, near Olvera Street. Commercial interests in the United States have capitalized on
the celebration, advertising Mexican products and services, with an emphasis on beverages,
foods, and music.

In Mexico, although Mexican citizens feel very proud of the meaning of Cinco de Mayo, it is not
a national holiday, but it is an official holiday in the State of Puebla where the Battle took place.
However, all public schools are closed nationwide in Mexico on May 5th. It is also a full holiday
(no work) in the neighboring state of Veracruz.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinco_de_Mayo
Medical Interpreting Services welcomes a new Korean interpreter - Mr. Hahn

We are very fortunate to have a new Korean interpreter join our team. Mr. Song Hahn is our new Korean interpreter. He has many years of medical interpreting and translation experience dating back to 1983.

Mr. Hahn is a retired secondary school teacher. He received his Master’s Degree in English Language Development. Prior to his retirement in 2002 he taught English as a foreign language (EFL) at the the secondary level (10-12) for 20 years in Korea. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1983, obtaining a teaching credential here, and taught at the Elk Grove Unified School District for 19 years.

One of Mr. Hahn’s hobbies is writing essays with his writing group to present every Tuesday, which is sponsored by CSUS Renaissance Retiree’s Program.

We asked Mr. Hahn what his thoughts were about joining the MIS department and his first month on the job. His answers were: “I am proud to join a team that is composed of multilingual interpreters with diverse ethnolinguistic competencies. The department appears to be efficient and independent in performing its assigned duties and responsibilities, and staff treat each other with equal respect. I received a warm welcome & a lot of support during my first month here.”

Welcome aboard, Mr. Hahn! We are pleased to have you as part of our team.

Modes of Interpreting

Many people do not realize that there is a difference between the highly skilled fields of interpreting and translation. While translation is a written conversion between two languages, interpreting is an oral exchange.

**Consecutive**

When this type of interpreter is being used, a rhythm must be established between the speaker and the interpreter to allow frequent pauses for the interpreter to speak. Some interpreters take notes as the speaker talks; others simply listen and repeat in the target language. Consecutive mode of interpreting often used in court hearings, depositions, interviews, medical appointments and meetings.

**Simultaneous**

Simultaneous interpreting requires specialized training that allows interpreters to interpret as the speaker talks, with no need of pauses. This type of interpreting requires very high skill level and training. Simultaneous interpreting is used mainly at conferences and on guided tours, often with the use of a headset.

**Whisper**

In this form of interpreting, the interpreter remains inconspicuous next to the client, whispering an interpretation of the matter at hand. No equipment is required and it is usually desired in circumstances where there is a small group of people requiring interpretation.

**Liason**

Also referred to as escort interpreting, liaison interpreting is a more involved process. The interpreter typically shadows the client for several hours, or all day long in their everyday activities. This type of interpreting is often used with professional sports players, VIPs, and celebrities.

Source: www.languagetrainingcenter.com