

### **Translation training: warming-up**

Our translation training class often starts like this. The teacher hands out sheets of paper with the foreign text to be translated. The students start writing the translation immediately. If the class is computerized, we have the same, but this time with the screen and clicking. As a result it sometimes happens that the students-translators understand the main idea of the whole foreign text only on putting the full stop in the last sentence of translation.

To face this challenge we propose the technique of 'Warming-up for translation' that is used at the introductory stage of translating class. 'Warming-up' is a well-known teaching tool that when applied for translation appeared to be very helpful.

This activity contains a single worksheet. The worksheet style with lines to be filled out gives the task an easy look and makes the activity self-contained and not so much time consuming. The procedure is as follows. Before translating students receive the worksheets with clear instructions:

- skim the text;
- write 5 questions to the text;
- write the key words of the text;
- give the main idea of the text.

The last section of the activity is extremely important because students thus concentrate on general content of the text neglecting for the time being the specific information. Students often see this task as a challenge but it certainly increases their motivation.

This activity is designed to be student-centered. When students skim the text to get a general impression of it, then find key words and, finally, summarize information, they are fully immersed into the text even before they start translating. We hope the students incorporate these techniques for their future translating activity.