



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CERTIFIED TRANSLATOR AND THE TRANSLATION AGENCY

www.universal-translation-services.com
info@universal-translation-services.com

Our offices: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Las Vegas, London,
Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington DC, Spain
Main office Aventura 20801 Biscayne blvd suite 403, Aventura FL33180
Tel. 844-938-7267

Juggling Between The Worlds Of Certifications? Let Us Unravel!

Being the people associated with the translation industry, we are often asked questions that seem ridiculously clear to us but are actually rather important and complicated for our customers. One of the biggest confusion of all time is the difference between a certified translator and an agency offering certified translations. So let's begin with what's what and who's who.



Who's A Certified Translator?

It's quite apparent from the name that a translator is the person who translates, usually from one source language into another target language or languages. A certified translator, however, is different. A certified translator is the one who has taken special exams known as certification exams and passed it to earn the title of a certified translator.



The Certification!

The exams are especially designed to judge and test the skill, knowledge and proficiency of the translator. It is made to assess the competence of the translator in the language combination in which they have a professional degree. In the US, there is no centralized organization that can certify translators or provide them with a written exam. The most popular and prestigious institution, which is internationally recognized in the translation world is the American Translators Association better known as ATA. The ATA certification is considered the most acknowledged certification in the translation industry on a global scale.



Certification Types, What Are They?

Just like translators work in different fields and specialize in those certain areas. Certification is both general and specialized. It is because the work of a translator involves sensitive information. Translators and interpreters work for legal, medical, immigration and vice versa, and thus certification sometimes becomes essential for them.

Generalized Certification

Associations such as ATA provide generalized certifications for selected languages and language combinations. The general certification asserts only on translator's skill to translate one language into another generally. This certification isn't attributed to any specific area or subject.



ATA Certification

ATA has strict eligibility requirements for translators that must be met before taking the certification exams. The details of the requirements have been shared on the website for better understanding of the translators.

The two most important eligibility requirements include:

- The translator must be a member of ATA if he or she intends to take the certification exams. He can also become the member of ATA at the time of application.
- The translator must provide a reading proficiency test in both source and target languages from the American Council On The Teaching Of Foreign Languages also known as ACTFL.

Generalized Certification

Associations such as ATA provide generalized certifications for selected languages and language combinations. The general certification asserts only on translator's skill to translate one language into another generally. This certification isn't attributed to any specific area or subject.

ATA Certification



ATA has strict eligibility requirements for translators that must be met before taking the certification exams. The details of the requirements have been shared on the website for better understanding of the translators.

The two most important eligibility requirements include:



- The translator must be a member of ATA if he or she intends to take the certification exams. He can also become the member of ATA at the time of application.



- The translator must provide a reading proficiency test in both source and target languages from the American Council On The Teaching Of Foreign Languages also known as ACTFL.

Specialized Certification

An important aspect of translation is its link to the most significant areas of life. For this reason, legal and medical translators often opt for specialized certification by legal institutions and medical institutions respectively. Not only does that certification allow them to land a better job, it also provides them an edge over other translators who don't have a specialized certification.

Specialized certification is also awarded after certification exams, which in this case includes special experts assessing their understanding of their given areas along with their knowledge of the language combination in which they are taking the exams.

Is Certification Mandatory For Translators?

Another misconception that many people have is that a translator who isn't certified is not the one to be trusted with your translation project. Ironically, this isn't true.

Becoming a certified translator doesn't put a stamp of experience or quality on a translator's work. It's the skill, knowledge and comprehensiveness that count. Besides, there's more to a translator's not being certified than just their ability to pass or fail the certification exams.

For example, there are countries or regions where there are no organizations, institutions or associations that offer certification. Another reason could also be that the organization in their country doesn't offer certification for the language combination in which they have a degree. And last but not the least, a translator doesn't have to be a certified translator in order to provide certified translation, therefore they don't consider it as a necessity for their work.

An Agency That Provides Certified Translations

Before moving on to the subject of an agency which can provide certified translations, let us start from the point of interest, which is the certified translation.

A certified translation is a translation accompanied by a document of certification. This document of certification states that the translation of the original document contains the same information as depicted in the original document and the translator has translated the document to the best of his knowledge and provides his signature at the bottom of the certification document.

It is important to remember that even if the translator is not a certified translator, he or she can still provide certified translations.

Since certified translations are often required by official departments, they are always in high demand.

An agency, on the other hand, provide certified translations by stating their own name in the beginning of the certification of accuracy. They state that the translator, with their credentials, has provided the translation of the document and they certify that the document has been translated accurately.

If the agency is a member of a translation association such as ATA, they also mention their membership in the certification of accuracy to further emphasize on their authentication.



Which Is More Reliable, The Translator Or The Agency?

W Although, it's not fair to judge the knowledge of a translator by their certification, there are some instances when being cautious becomes the only option. Since there's no regulatory body for translations in the US, any translator can provide certified translations by just providing their signatures at the end of the certification of accuracy.

Choosing a freelance translator may be a good option when you are tight on budget or you are looking for a simple text translation. But it's not a wise choice for official translations.

Take immigration or legal translations for example, even a minor mistake could create the most terrible disaster of all. Au contraire, if you choose a well reputed company that provides certified translations, it will take full responsibility of the certification provided. Their translators will also be experienced and the company will assign your project to the relative translator to avoid any inconvenience.

SERVICES



When Our services include

- Certificate Translations
- Document Translations
- Website Translations
- Website Localization
- App Localization
- Affidavit Translations
- DTP Translations
- Official Translations
- Technical Translations
- Subtitling Services
- Diploma Translations
- Language Translations
- Police Clearance Translations



Instant Communication



We believe in fastest communication. And we use tools such as live chat option, call, emails to stay in constant touch with you. So that when you have a query, all you have to do is just hit the button.

Instant Quote

You can also get an instant quote for your translation project at any moment. You don't have to wait for emails or calls, you can get a quote in just a few minutes.



ATA Certified Member

Universal Translation Services is a certified member of ATA. Thus, choosing us for your certified translations is the safest option. You have nothing to worry about our authenticity after the ATA certified membership.



Affordability With Quality

We offer the most affordable rates for high quality translations. Because at UTS, we offer convenience and excellence side by side.





UNIVERSAL



TRANSLATION
SERVICES

www.universal-translation-services.com
info@universal-translation-services.com

Our offices: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Las Vegas, London,
Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington DC, Spain
Main office Aventura 20801 Biscayne blvd suite 403, Aventura FL33180
Tel. 844-938-7267