Skills, training or experience: what exactly does it take to be a freelance translator?

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Overview

- Reasons for research
- Why it is important to know
- Focus of this presentation
Research context

To understand:
- Essential skills and abilities for UK-based Freelance Translators
- How skillset is affected by academic training and CPD
- Attitudes towards training, CPD and skills

How:
- Literature (EMT and PACTE competence frameworks; ITI and ATA)
- Empirical research (surveyed 24 UK-based Freelance Translators)
Formal Academic Training

How important do you think it is to hold an undergraduate degree in an area of translation in order to be a successful freelance translator?

How important do you think it is to hold an postgraduate degree in an area of translation in order to be a successful freelance translator?
Continued Professional Development

How important do you think Continued Professional Development (CPD) is?

- Very important: 12
- Important: 6
- Neutral: 1
- Unimportant: 1
- Very unimportant: 0

How often do you undertake CPD training to develop your skills?

- More than 3 times a year: 14
- Between 1 and 3 times a year: 6
- Once every other year: 2
- Less than once ever other year: 1
- Never: 0
### Skills

Q14: On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being extremely important and 5 being not at all important, please rate each of the following skills in terms of necessity for a freelance translator:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Neither Important or unimportant</th>
<th>Unimportant</th>
<th>Extremely Unimportant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linguistic skills</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personality skills and attributes</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technological skills and abilities</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation related abilities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Communication skills</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability to cope with irregular workload</th>
<th>Ability to maintain ongoing training</th>
<th>Ability to quickly respond</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ability to work to tight deadlines</td>
<td>Ability to continue learning</td>
<td>Ability to develop rapport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>with project managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience</td>
<td>Motivation</td>
<td>Open-mindedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureaucratic skills</td>
<td>Curiosity</td>
<td>Self-discipline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

- Essential skills
- Limitations to research
- Future research
Thank you for your attention!
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