Heléne van der Westhuizen

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| **Freelance Language Practitioner**  I started out in life as a musician, made a detour through Psychology and ended up as a freelance language practitioner – call it by fate or call it by accident. I’ve hated some parts of this journey, and loved others, but nothing beats the thrill of finding the perfect words to carry narrative from one country to another. |

**Key Skills & memberships**

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| **Languages:** | Afrikaans – Mother Tongue ⚫ English – Fluent ⚫ Polish – Good enough understanding to have done a major edit on the English subtitles of two Polish documentary films and a feature film ⚫ Sotho – Good enough to get good service in shops and restaurants, and to make friends on the street. ⚫ German – Retained some understanding from high school. |
| **Software:** | ⚫ SDL Trados Studio 2011, 2014 & 2017 ⚫ All applications of Microsoft Office |
| **People Skills:** | I try to live with integrity and without hidden agendas, and I have respect and leave room for other people’s ideas and behaviour, which may radically differ from mine. This makes it easier for me to get along with people, and thus work with all kinds of clients and co‑workers. |
| **Professional:**  **Associations:**  **Internet Profiles:**  **Website:** | satilogo-colour APTrans (Accredited Professional Translator) – **South African Translators’ Institute** <http://translators.org.za>  C:\Users\Helene\Documents\Branding\ProZ.com_logo_small_v1.pngCertified Pro – **ProZ.com: The Translation Workplace**  <http://www.proz.com/translator/1664297>  Full member – **Irish Writers’ Union -** <https://irishwritersunion.org/>    Associate member – **Professional Editors’ Group**  [www.editors.org.za](http://www.editors.org.za)    Member – **South African Freelancers’ Association -** [www.safrea.co.za](http://www.safrea.co.za)  **ProZ.com** – <http://www.proz.com/profile/1664297> International translators’ platform where you will be able to see client feedback.  **LinkedIn** – <http://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=59931155> Professional networking site.  <http://www.helenewordemporium.com> |
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**Freelance Experience**

**Educational period**

**November 2014 – May 2018**

**Dublin (Ireland)**

* ***Writing Skills:*** Although I have done small translation and editing jobs during our time in Ireland, I have spent most of my time honing my fictional writing skills, being mindful of the turn towards fiction editing my career seemed to take at the time. I felt I needed a better understanding of the creative process on the other side of my editor’s desk and Ireland, as one of the greatest literary hubs of the world, was the perfect place to do that. (See Education at the end of the CV).

**english writer**

**september 2014**

**South african translators’ institute**

**johannesburg (RSA)**

**Afrikaans Editor**

**June – September 2014**

**naledi publishers**

**Cape Town (RSA)**

**Afrikaans and english proofreading**

**march – June 2014**

**human.kind advertising**

**Johannesburg (RSA)**

**english Editing**

**January – February 2014**

**ERNST van biljon – MASTER’S student**

**University of south africa**

**Pretoria (RSA)**

**english-afrikaans translator December 2013**

**DOLE SA - importers & exporters**

**CAPE TOWN (RSA)**

**english Editing**

**November – December 2013**

**ZUKO April – mba STUDENT**

**university of johannesburg**

**Pretoria campus (RSA)**

**english copywriter**

**November 2013**

**pestControl Technologies**

**Pretoria (RSA)**

**english-afrikaans translator**

**September – November 2013**

**Several companies and Translation agencies**

**USA, UK and EGYPT**

* ***A Language Labyrinth:*** This article was published in the quarterly journal of the South African Translators’ Institute about my experience as a language practitioner in Poland and the problems that one encounters as a translator when working with two languages so far removed from each other as Polish and English.
* ***Die dooies leef:* (The dead are alive – Afrikaans novel by SD Fourie)** Novel development and complete edit (370 pages).
* ***Promotional materials:*** Proofreading of English and Afrikaans promotional materials, including anything from policy brochures for insurance companies to advertisements for paint promotions on trucks, from the copywriter’s first draft to the final layout proofs.
* ***Master’s Thesis in Policing***:Exploring the Meaning of Crime Prevention within the Tshwane Metropolitan Police Department.
* ***Contracts***: Translation of contracts between Dole and farmers of fresh produce.
* ***MBA Mini Thesis***:The Export Readiness of enterprises supported by South Africa’s Department of Trade and Industry’s Export Marketing and Investment Incentive Scheme.
* ***Article for BizBuzz online magazine***:The article explained how pests invade your home, and how PestControl Technologies use different eco-friendly methods to get rid of them. [http://bizbuzzmagazine.co.za/2013/11/pests-must-not-make-our-home-their-home](http://bizbuzzmagazine.co.za/2013/11/pests-must-not-make-our-home-their-home/)
* ***Several shorter translations***:During these three months, I did several shorter translations of different kinds for international clients. They ranged from online shopping advertisements, medical translations and technical manuals for medical equipment to internet and phone apps, and the instructions for a complete GPS navigation system. Some translations were done from English to Afrikaans and others vice versa. It sometimes included reviewing other translators’ work.

**english editor**

**August 2013**

**Accuphrase LLC Translation agency**

**Haddonfield New Jersey (USA)**

**Afrikaans Editor**

**August – September 2013**

**naledi publishers**

**Cape Town (RSA)**

**english-afrikaans translator**

**July 2013**

**language Scientific INC. medford massachusetts (USA)**

**english-afrikaans editor and translator**

**December 2012 – May 2013**

**ONE Financial Services Holdings**

**Johannesburg (RSA)**

**September – november 2012**

**rubric ltd**

**edinburgh (scotland)**

**English Editor**

**July – August 2012**

**ONE Financial Services Holdings**

**Johannesburg (RSA)**

**Afrikaans editor**

**May – June 2012**

**Heinemann south africa**

**Johannesburg (RSA)**

**English-AFRIKAANS TRANSLATOR**

**afrikaans-english translator**

**APRIL – May 2012**

**dILICOM LANGUAGE SOLUTIONS**

**Pretoria (RSA)**

**English-afrikaans translator**

**January – March 2012**

**rubric LTD (Translation agency)**

**edinburgh (scotland)**

* ***Medical and pharmaceutical translations***: Informed consent forms and medical trial instructions.
* ***Katte – ŉ Handleiding vir verantwoordelike kateienaars in Suid‑Afrika* (Cats – A guide for responsible cat owners in South Africa)**: Complete edit (350 pages).
* ***Medical and pharmaceutical translations***: Instruction manual for the use of testing equipment.
* ***Policy wordings***: Original contract: Complete edit and translation of all policies. I abandoned the project after a sudden and unexpected one‑sided change to the contract on the part of the company to Partial translation without any editing. The language in the original documents was of really poor quality, and I was not willing to associate my name and reputation with patchwork of which the biggest part would remain well below the standard that my clients are accustomed to.
* ***Schoolbooks***: Drama, Grade 7 and 8, learners’ books and teachers’ guides. I would originally only translate the Grade 7 teacher’s guide and Grade 8 learner’s book, but was then also asked to edit the translation of the Grade 7 learners’ book and Grade 8 teacher’s guide.
* ***Product brochure***: An edit of the product brochure in order to standardise the language use across all the policies before translating it into Afrikaans.
* ***Schoolbooks***: Life orientation, Grade 6, learner’s book and teacher’s guide. Editing as well as the checking of cross references and the alignment of the two books.
* ***Medical and pharmaceutical translations***: Mostly information documents and indemnity forms for patients who were to partake in medical trials.
* ***Schoolbooks***: Life orientation, Grade 6, learner’s book.

**Polish-English subtitle translator**

**july – august 2011**

**HBO Central Europe original programming (Poland)**

**English subtitle Editor**

**June – july 2011**

**ZK Studio – Warsaw (Poland)**

**afrikaans-English translator English subtitle Editor September 2010 – april 2011 braidmade FILMS – LONDON (england) in cooperation with Wytwórnia filmów – warsaw (Poland)**

**project MANAGER**

**afrikaans-English Translator**

**author of Introduction compiler of glossary AND REFERENCE list**

**Negotiator of copy rights and permissions for the use of glossary information**

**January 2008 – May 2010**

**South African Embassy in warsaw (Poland)**

**project MANAGER**

**compiling editor**

**negotiator of copyrights and permissions for the use of recipes and glossary information**

**January – November 2007**

**South African Embassy**

**warsaw (Poland)**

* ***I bóg stworzył seks...*** (**And God created sex...**): Polish documentary film by Konrad Szołajski for HBO Central Europe Original Programming, released in August 2011. It featured on HBO’s satellite TV channels across Europe and at the Polish film festival in Chicago in November 2011. The film tells the story of Father Ksawere Knotz, a Polish priest, who caused a revolution among Polish Catholics when he wrote a book about sex in 2009. <http://www.filmpolski.pl/fp/index.php/4224396>
* ***Kop głębiej*** (**Dig deeper**): This Polish feature film by Konrad Szołajski premiered at the Polish film festival in Chicago in November 2011, after which it featured on the cinema circuit in Poland. It is a comedy about an old German gentleman who comes to Poland in search of his parents’ remains. He ends up at a poor Polish family that will do anything for money. <http://www.filmpolski.pl/fp/index.php/1226691>
* ***Tato poszedł na ryby*** (**Dad went fishing**):Polish documentary film by Grzegorz Pacek, set in Pomfret, South Africa, which featured at several film festivals in Poland. It is about Juan van Tonder who established the Emanuelle Children’s Home for the families and orphaned children of the famous 32 ‘Buffalo’ Battalion, which formed part of the old South African Defence Force.

<http://www.filmpolski.pl/fp/index.php/4224486>

* ***Vuvuzela***: Simultaneous English and Polish translation of the Afrikaans youth novel with the same title by Engela van Rooyen. A project of the South African Embassy in Poland for promotional purposes during therun‑up to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The proceeds of the book were donated to the *Fundacja spełnionych marżeń* (*Foundation for fulfilled dreams*). They take care of underprivileged children with cancer and their families.

<http://www.spelnionemarzenia.org.pl/index.php?url=ofuneng>

Although this project was done on a small scale, and we didn’t have the opportunity to work within the structures of an established publishing house, I eventually had to manage a completely different and much bigger team than I originally intended. The project from start to finish took two and a half years, and formed an invaluable part of my learning curve in this industry.

* ***Gogo’s kitchen – smaki Republiki Południowej Afryki*** (**tastes of the Republic of South Africa**): Traditional South African recipe book in English and Polish. It was my initiation into the publication industry, and my first project for the South African Embassy in Poland – also for promotional purposes, and the proceeds went to the same organisation than the proceeds for the youth novel.

In 2008, we were enrolled for the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards by someone still unknown to us, and we received the award for the best fundraising cookbook.

**Education**

**Applicable short courses and workshops**

**2018 Frank McCourt Summer School Workshops – Donal Ryan, Sarah Moore Fitzgerald, Kerry Neville**

Donal Ryan is a lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Limerick, multiple-award winning author of ‘The Spinning Heart’ (Irish Novel of the Decade prize), ‘The Thing About December’, ‘All We Shall Know’, ‘From a Low and Quiet Sea’, winner of The Guardian First Novel Prize and the EU Award For Fiction.

Sarah Moore Fitzgerald is the course Leader of UL’s MA in Creative Writing (autumn 2017), acclaimed Young Adult author (‘The Apple Tart of Hope’, ‘The List of Real Things’) and lecturer on time management and motivation for writers.

Kerry Neville, incoming Fulbright Scholar in Creative Writing at UL (2018/19) award-winning short story writer (‘Necessary Lies’), memoirist, teacher on the Creative Writing MFA at Georgia College and State University.

**2018 Personalised Group Mentorship – Conor Kostick**

**2017 Finish Your Novel – Conor Kostick –** See his credentials below at the Historical Fiction Course

**2017 Brewery Lane Writers’ Weekend – Writing Workshop – Lia Mills and Catherine Dunne**

Lia Mills writes novels, short stories and literary non-fiction and has worked on several public art commissions. An experienced writing workshop facilitator, she was writer-in-residence at Farmleigh House 2015-2016 and Arts Council Writer Fellow at University College Dublin for 2016. Her third novel, Fallen, was the Dublin: One City One Book selection for 2016. Her first novel, Another Alice (1996), was nominated for the Irish Times Irish fiction prize, and her second, Nothing Simple (2005), was shortlisted for the Irish Novel of the Year.  In Your Face (2007), a memoir of her diagnosis of and treatment for oral cancer, was named favourite book of 2007 by several commentators. In 2013 she co‑edited Word of Mouth: coping with and surviving mouth, head and neck cancers with Dr Denise MacCarthy. Born in Dublin (where she is based), she lived in London and America before returning to Ireland in 1990.

Catherine Dunne is the author of nine novels.  Most recently, *The Things We Know Now*, won the 700th anniversary Giovanni Boccaccio International Prize for Fiction and was shortlisted for the Eason Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards 2013. Catherine has also published one work of non-fiction: a social history of Irish immigrants in London, called *An Unconsidered People*.  Her work has been translated into several languages.

She has facilitated Creative Writing Workshops for Listowel Writers’ Week, The Seanchaí Literary & Cultural Centre Listowel, Dublin City Council, The Irish Writers’ Centre and the Arvon Foundation in the UK.

**2016 Historical Fiction – Conor Kostick -** Topics such as world building; characterisation; drama; dialogue and plot resolution.

Conor Kostick is a writer and historian living in Dublin. As a novelist he was awarded the Farmleigh writer's residency for the summer of 2010 and a place on the nominees list for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2012 and 2013. At their 2009 awards, the Reading Association of Ireland gave him the Special Merit Award ‘in recognition of his significant contribution to writing for children in Ireland’. *Epic* is Conor’s most successful book, selling over 100,000 copies worldwide. It was awarded a place on the International Board on Books for Young People, "White Ravens" list for 2006, and on the Booklist Best Fantasy Books for Youth list for 2007.

As an historian, Conor Costick’s holds a PhD and a gold medal from Trinity College Dublin. He won first prize in the 2001 Dublinia Medieval Essay Competition, and has held fellowships from the Irish Research Council and the University of Nottingham. In 2013, he was awarded a Marie Curie research grant from the EU. Conor was twice chairperson of the Irish Writers' Union. He has just been appointed Commissioning Editor for LevelUp, a new Imprint of Ockham Publishing.

**2015 Claire Keegan Fiction Seminar – The role of time and desire** (not necessarily in romance, but the desire/goal of the main character) **in fiction and the building of a scene (English)**

Claire Keegan has written three award-winning collections of short stories: *Antarctica*, *Walk The Blue Fields* and *Foster*. Her stories have won the Davy Byrnes Award, been published in *The New Yorker*, *Best American Short Stories*, *Granta*, *The Paris Review* and translated into 14 languages. She is also a highly respected teacher of creative writing, having taught fiction workshops on four continents.

**2015 Brewery Lane Writers’ Weekend – Short Story Workshop - Nessa O’Mahony and Ferdia MacAnna**

Ferdia MacAnna is an award-winning writer, producer and director. He has developed drama series and comedies for the BBC, RTÉ and TG4. He lectures in screenwriting at IADT, NUIM and DCU. At present he is a facilitator at the Innovator Academy, UCD.

Nessa O’Mahony has published four volumes of poetry. She won the National Women’s Poetry Competition in 1997 and was shortlisted for the Patrick Kavanagh Prize and Hennessy Literature Awards.

**2015 Fiction Writing Group – David Butler (Ended 2016) (English)**

**2014 5-week Starter Kit – Tools for writers – David Butler (Irish Writers’ Centre) (English)**

David Butler has worked as Education Officer at the James Joyce Centre, and has lectured in Spanish Literature at TCD, Essex University, Carlow College and UCD. His novel The Last European was published in 2005 (Wynkin de Worde), while his debut poetry collection Via Cruces (Doghouse) appeared in 2011. The Judas Kiss (New Island,2012) was favourably reviewed in the Sunday Times by Alan Murdoch, who in particular noted Butler's talent for characterisation. No Greater Love, a collection of his short stories, was published in London in 2014 (Ward Wood) and a third novel, City of Dis, in 2014 (New Island). He lives in Bray.

His novel, City of Dis, was shortlisted (one of five) for the Irish Novel of the Year award in 2015.

**2014 Mentorship: thesis and book editing – Jenny de Wet (Professional Editors’ Group) (English)**

**2013 Fiction editing – Izak de Vries and Chanette Paul (Professional Editors’ Group) (Afrikaans)**

**2012 Editing master class – Elizabeth Manning Murphy (Professional Editors’ Group) (English)**

**Tertiary Education**

BA Hons Psychology ⚫ University of South Africa ⚫ 1998-2003

Research Methodology

Psychological Assessment

Psychopathology

Ecosystemic Psychology

Personology

Therapeutic Psychology

Psychology III ⚫ University of South Africa (UNISA) ⚫ 1995

BA Social Sciences ⚫ University of the Free State ⚫ 1989-1993

Sociology

Philosophy

**High School Education**

Matric ⚫ Sentraal High School (Bloemfontein) ⚫ 1986

Afrikaans HG

English HG

Mathematics SG

Biology HG

Music HG

German HG