

Ben Jones: Curriculum Vitae

as at 1/7/2019

Telephone: +44 1843 847701

Born: 1966 in Britain

Family: Married (to Japanese national), 2 children

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Summary: a qualified, professional Japanese linguist having over 30 years' experience in translation, interpreting and typesetting, with excellent organizational and computer skills and a broad scope of interests, knowledge and contacts.

• Work history

1990-present Translating, interpreting, typesetting and consulting: BJ Translations Ltd

Customers include UK/Japanese national and regional governments, the European Patent Office, Microsoft, the BBC, Hewlett-Packard, Disney, Michelin, Dentsu, Tate Modern/Louis Vuitton (KUSAMA Yayoi, MORIYAMA Daidō), the International Chamber of Commerce, numerous lawyers' offices and financial institutions, and others in over 25 countries. Topics handled include arbitration, mediation, taxation, law, investor relations, shipping, aviation, defence, patents, engineering, telecoms, films, computing, electronics, insurance, art, culture, fashion, tourism, sports, environment, fine wine, cooking, PR, etc.

Incidental work includes lectures on translation-related topics at the Language Show, the annual International Japanese-English Translation conference, ITI and Bath / Leeds University events, Business Link, etc.

2008-present Publishing: Ozaru Books (15 books published to date, focused on East Kent, East Prussia & East Asia)

2014 (2 months) Lead translator at Fieldfisher (City lawyers) for large Japanese legal project (shipping/aviation)

2013-2015 Director of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (UK professional association)

1987-1990 Freelance translating / interpreting / coordination in Tokyo, Hiroshima, Edinburgh, Avignon

1986-1987 Agriculture in Atarashiki-mura, Saitama

1984 (7 months) Translation / software development / customer service in Schloß Elmau, Bavaria

• Main published translations

English translation of "The Way of the Ninja" by HATSUMI Masaaki, published by Kodansha International

English translation of "Sanmyaku" journal by HATSUMI Masaaki, published independently in 15 countries

Numerous exhibition catalogues and related materials (translated from Japanese and German) for the Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney), Fondation Cartier, Domaine Chambord, Frankfurt Museum of World Culture, Phaidon Press

• Skills

Bilingual in Japanese & English, working knowledge of German, French, Spanish

Competent typesetter in Chinese, Korean, Thai, Russian, Ukrainian, etc.

Expert computer user since 1980s (including current Microsoft & Adobe packages)

• Qualifications, awards, etc.

Fellow of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting for J→E and E→J translation (sole Fellow for Japanese; first & only non-Japanese person qualified for both directions); ex-coordinator & webmaster of ITI Japanese Network

Winner of ITI Japanese Network 1st translation competition (E→J, experienced division)

Winner of ITI Japanese Network 1st and subsequent translation competitions (J→E, experienced division)

Winner of ProZ.com 6th translation competition (E→J)

Runner-up in Kurodahan Press translation competition (J→E)

Member of the Translators Association of the Society of Authors

15th Dan instructor of the martial art of Bujinkan Dōjō Budō Taijutsu

Associated Board Grade 8 (Distinction) for piano, violin and viola

Full & clean driving licence



• Referees

Supplied on request; see overleaf and "[testimonials](#)" section on website.

• Academic history

1976-1983 King's School, Canterbury; 'A'-levels: French (+S), German (+S), Maths, Further Maths, Music

Sep. 1984 Won scholarship to New College, Oxford to study Japanese

Sep. 1985 Transferred to Centre for Japanese Studies at the University of Sheffield

• Interests

Music (part-time professional, leader of various orchestras & [chamber groups](#)), puzzles (finalist in UK Rubik's Cube and Rubik's Revenge championships), [Hoodening](#) (ancient East Kent folk custom), gorillas (twice top fundraiser), martial arts, community activities (member of Village Plan steering committee, local church Director of Music), social media, programming

• Sample CPD

- Daily practice in Japanese (as language of habitual use) with local native speakers
- Daily use of both Japanese and English websites to research specialist topics for particular assignments
- Daily use of technical websites / RSS feeds / social media to keep abreast of changes in industry, technology etc.
- Daily bilingual interaction with other native speakers and professional linguists via ITI Japanese Network
- Frequent interaction with native speakers and subject specialists on interpreting assignments
- Attendance at wide variety of ITI conferences / events

• Selected testimonials

"Our legal team, arbitrators and Japanese clients were all hugely impressed with Ben Jones's interpretation at an LMAA Arbitration [...] We have worked with a number of interpreters (of all languages) in the past and Ben was undoubtedly the best – quite exceptional. He was able to sense when the witnesses felt confident speaking in English – using him for the translation of an occasional word – and when they preferred to speak in their native tongue. His interpretation was quick, clear and accurate. Highly recommended." [Joanna Hoyle, Solicitor, Clyde & Co.]

"I have worked with Ben for 13 years and have always been impressed with his ability to deal with fast paced translation in an unflustered manner. Ben is the best Japanese translator I have worked with in both the U.K. and Japan. Ben also does everything to accommodate changing schedules and is flexible with last minute changes where possible. He is also great company in meetings that can last many days." [Dominic Vines, International Tax Specialist, HMRC]

"Ben rescued us when we were looking for a technical pharmaceutical interpreter at very short notice. Despite not being an expert in pharma, Ben digested the source material in a very short time span, and performed flawlessly over two solid days of challenging meetings with investors. Ben is a professional, faithful interpreter, who we hope to engage again, irrespective of the subject matter (He's also a very nice chap)." [Jonathan Gibbard, Japanese Equities, Mizuho Securities]

"I will gladly recommend you to anyone seeking English/Japanese translation, you have been a crucial asset in enabling the good communication between the various stakeholders in this complicated case." [SS, regarding automotive regulatory case]

"... I am however confident that we will be able to sign this contract. This is ... partly because we have with us today Mr Jones, a trustworthy interpreter who fully comprehends the current scheme." [YH, Japanese government agency, during speech in UK]

"Thanks so much for ... above all, your fantastic support during our Japan meeting. The benefit to us all was immense – and the comments we received from the Japanese team were a real testament to your great interpreting skills! ... It was certainly most fruitful for us." [AF, precious metals group, London]

"I gather from the team that you were a 'star' and extremely helpful not only in your excellent translating skills but demeanour and calmness throughout the day which helped both teams." [KSC, consultant, London]

"I had a meeting in London with a Japanese company that came over to see me as a direct result of your translations. They were very surprised to find that the translations had been done by an English translator ... They were very complimentary regarding the quality of the presentation. This letter is just to thank you for a superb job." [MH, exporter, Kent (UK)]

"All ten articles were quite interesting, but amongst them your Japanese was the best, absolutely wonderful. There are some Japanese authors I think ought to read it! I hope there will be an opportunity to have you write for us again in the future." [YN, magazine publisher, Tokyo]

"Thank you for the sample translation. Our Japanese Rep concluded that your translation was the best of the ones that we had done." [SO, silicon chip manufacturer, USA]

"The calligraphy was brilliant, a work of art. Tanaka was very pleased with it: he thought we had sent to Japan to have it done! Once again, a sincere thank-you." [SG, martial arts group, London]

"We do have hundreds of translators on our books, but unfortunately nobody else of your calibre." [AD, translation agency, London]

"[Our client] said: 'Really excellent – he turned what could have been a long and difficult meeting into a quick and easy meeting – really grateful for his interpreting skills.' So thanks very much! They're one of our biggest customers, so it's nice to keep them happy." [JR, translation agency, London]

"So you must be a patent attorney too?" [patent attorney client finding it hard to believe a mere interpreter can be fluent in Japanese, patentese & pharmaceuticalese]

"This is probably the most expert and comprehensive reply I've ever had to a request – many thanks! I do appreciate the trouble you've taken." [ME, translation agency, Preston (UK)]

"Feedback from the client: 'I just wanted to let you know that I was very impressed with Ben on this call, he handled a tricky call, that had many different people and was quite technical in its content, very well. My client was also equally impressed and labelled him 'brilliant'! Please pass on our thanks and we would definitely like to use him again for any Japanese translations.'" [ZG, translation agency, Macclesfield (UK)]

"Thank you very much for the high quality of your work. Our client has just come back to us to say that they were very impressed, and will be sending some more within the next couple of days." [KF, translation agency, Luton (UK)]

"Your translation looks great (much better than the original)!" [OS, translation agency, USA]