

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

*Knut J. Olawsky*

## **Personal information:**

Title: Dr.  
Name: Olawsky  
First names: Knut Johannes  
Sex: Male  
Date of birth: 05. May 1965  
Nationality: German; resident of Australia since July 2000  
Languages: German (native), English (excellent); other: Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Urarina  
Address: P.O. Box 1809  
Kununurra, WA 6743  
Phone: (08) 9169 2045  
E-mail: [manager@thebarefootlinguist.com.au](mailto:manager@thebarefootlinguist.com.au)  
Website: [www.thebarefootlinguist.com.au](http://www.thebarefootlinguist.com.au)

## **Background in translation work:**

My interest in translation work started during my years of academic study in Germany where I received professional training for the translation of different genres from Italian and Japanese into German. While my subsequent academic career focussed on linguistic documentation, I stayed connected to the world of translation through casual translation jobs. Since migrating to Australia (in 2000), my work experience in translation and proofreading concentrated on the following areas:

- tourism (examples: website translation for local tourism operators, including an airline; translation of travel brochures about the East Kimberley region)
- retail (example: Australian diamonds)
- music (example: article translation for the German Harmonica Association)
- fiction (example: book translation of ethnic short stories).

As a resident of a tourism hotspot and through my work with the Aboriginal people of the Kimberley Region I have sufficient insight into tourism-related issues, including cross-cultural matters (I engaged in language-related consultation during the production of Baz Luhrmann's movie "Australia" here in Kununurra).

In 2007 I decided to start a translation business as a freelancer and obtained accreditation as a professional translator through the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI #61243).

## **Educational background:**

23. January 2007	NAATI accreditation as a professional translator for English>German
July 1999 – June 2000	Postdoctoral Research Fellow at <i>University of California, Berkeley</i> .
31. March 1999	Awarded Ph.D. Thesis rated <i>Magna cum laude</i> ; Oral exams rated <i>Summa cum laude</i> .
21. October, 1993	Magister Artium (M.A.) in General Linguistics, Romance Linguistics (Italian), Japanology. Qualification with highest degree <i>Heinrich-Heine-Universität</i> (= HHU), Düsseldorf (Germany):
30.07.1991	Acquisition of the certificate <i>Teaching German as a foreign language/Intercultural Communication</i> , HHU Düsseldorf

## **Work experience:**

February 2008	Registration of business <i>The Barefoot Linguist</i> (ABN: 13 858 560 874)
Since July 2005	Senior Linguist/Manager for <i>Mirima Dawang Woorlabgerring</i> , Language and Culture Centre, Kununurra (WA)
July 2000 – June 2005	Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology (RCLT), Melbourne. Project: <i>Urarina language and culture</i> . - Various research trips to Peru to conduct linguistic fieldwork.
April 1994 – March 1999	Research fellow for the Dept. of Linguistics, HHU, Düsseldorf. Mission: Analysis of the Dagbani Grammar (Ghana), - Additional diploma course in Educational Studies - Teaching responsibilities as a lecturer in linguistics

## **Memberships:**

- Australian Linguistic Society (ALS)
- Western Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (WAITI)

## **Awards won:**

July 2003	Fellowship for postdoctoral research at the RCLT, Melbourne (Awarded by ELDP = Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, London).
April 1999	Fellowship for postdoctoral research at the <i>University of California</i> , Berkeley (Awarded by DAAD).
July 1996	Grant for fieldwork in Ghana (Awarded by CDG = Carl-Duisberg-Gesellschaft, Berlin).
November 1988	Scholarship for study at Italian Universities Perugia, Naples (Awarded by DAAD = German Academic Exchange Service, Bonn).

## **Personal interests:**

- Languages
- Travel
- Cross-cultural studies
- Indigenous cultures
- Music
- Fishing and nature

## **Selected publications:**

### **Books**

Olawsky, K.J.: *Aspects of Dagbani grammar – with special emphasis on phonology and morphology*. Studies in African Linguistics. Munich: LINCOM, 1999. 1-293.

Olawsky, K.J.: *A Grammar of Urarina*. Mouton Grammar Library 37. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 2006. 1-943.

### **Book chapters**

Olawsky, K.J.: What is a word in Dagbani? In: *Word. A cross-linguistic typology*, edited by R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. 205-226.