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## **Abid Riaz**

### **Career Summary:**

After starting as a corporate/academic English language instructor, I moved into writing and text editing after 3 years. After a year as an editor at Pakistan's NUST working with prospectuses, manuals, developing newsletters, and proofing research papers, I started freelancing as a Pashto<>English translator. The diversity of assignments in the academia and as a freelancer familiarized me with various types of texts including social sciences, marketing, technology, engineering, finance, law, current affairs, government, healthcare, etc., all of which have helped hone my skills not only as a translator but also as a writer. I am currently engaged in translation and interpretation for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and on a freelance basis.

### **Experience:**

#### **Freelance Translator (Present)**

- Latest completed project is subtitling of a Farsi/Pashto documentary on the mining sector of Afghanistan, focusing especially on copper mines in Mes Aynak.
- Subtitled a documentary on widows' lives in Kandahar. The documentary is made by a US Army veteran.
- Subtitled 2 Pashto and Urdu documentaries on Aqeela Asifi, a Farsi/Pashto-speaking Afghan refugee teacher in Kot Chandna refugee camp in Mianwali, Pakistan.
- Subtitled an Urdu documentary on the underground life of women dancers, stage actors, and the transgender community in Lahore.
- Completed translation of an academic course on Hydrology for the University of Nebraska Omaha. The course focused on water resources in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Worked with Appen Butler Hill, an Australian company, as part of their machine translation project where I maintained translation quality of over 90%.
- Translated the Afghanistan laws on drug and human trafficking for the United Nations through translation.pk, an old client of mine.

- Last year I translated annual report and related documents of ISAAA , an organization that promotes biotech applications in agriculture, especially genetically modified seeds.
- In 2014, I worked with Thesiegers, a research organization, as a translator of Afghan newspapers from the 1990s. I was interviewed and selected by the well-known Afghanistan expert Alex Strick Van Linschoten and later I also worked with Anand Gopal from the same team of researchers. I can provide references from both the distinguished scholars. This was the biggest freelance project I've ever done. Over a period of six months, I translated 240,000 words from Pashto to English.
- Translated marketing research interviews for Mashaal Radio (Radio Free Europe) that assessed their audience preferences in the Pashto-speaking areas of Pakistan.
- Pashto-English interpreter for Medecins du Monde, a French organization, when the INGO imparted training to its employees in KPK and FATA on providing better medical care especially to the Internally Displaced People (IDP's). This was my very first consecutive interpretation in my career.
- Translated Pashto news bulletins and current affairs debates broadcast by different TV/Radio channels such as Ashna TV, Shamshad TV, Mashaal Radio, etc. for a French machine translation project. My translations were retranslated to French.

### Volunteer Work

- Regular contributor to the work of Translators Without Borders.
- Along with commercial and development sector projects, I am a volunteer translator for Pashto Google Translate. I am a registered volunteer and commercial translator for Amara.org. I have translated several TedTalks and Scientific American magazine videos. I also contributed to Pashto translation of Facebook and Apache OpenOffice.

### Translator and Interpreter with the UNHCR (2013-2017)

- At the moment I also work with the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees, BOI Islamabad as a consecutive interpreter and translator.
- Translating Urdu and Pashto documents submitted by refugees to English. Documents include identification papers, education and work certificates, refugees appeal applications, police reports, birth/marriage/death certificates, support evidence submitted by refugees, etc.
- I am also a translation coordinator managing and reviewing translation by three other interpreters/translators.
- Translation of UNHCR mass information content in Pashto and Urdu. My translations are regularly published/aired in Pakistan newspapers and radio stations to reach Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

#### **Academic/News Editor with National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad**

- Annually published three prospectuses for the university (Engineering, Medicine and Social Sciences) which involved editing, writing, updating, rewriting and proofreading.
- Report and publish news stories of University conferences, seminars, project launches, etc. Develop brochures, press releases, news stories for NUST NEWS (newsletter), write/edit text for NUST.edu.pk and student magazines
- Edit/proofread research journals of various disciplines, mainly Engineering, Business and Medicine. Worked on **NUST Journal of Engineering Sciences (NJES)** comprising ten research papers by researchers from various educational and research institutions. NJES will be available online by the end of August.
- Edited NUST Annual Report 2010 and NUST Faculty Handbook 2011.

#### **Editor/ Proofreader /Translator with Transmedia Communications Lahore**

- Edited four books for a Dubai-based company, a Transmedia client. The books have now been published.
- Proofread *Fatawa Arkan-ul-Islam* by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Salih Al-Uthaymeen (two volumes) for errors caused during its scanning.
- Work also included proofreading all types of translated work done by company translators and supervising composers.

#### **Theses Editor/Instructor Business Communication with Air University, Islamabad**

- Edited business students' BBA/MBA theses/research papers
- Lectured to business students on linguistic mechanics such as sentence style, sentence structure, word choice, punctuation, pronunciation, etc.

#### **English Language Trainer with Touchstone Communications, Islamabad**

- Conducted a 40-hour English communication course for all new salespersons. Training course was chiefly based on **American Accent Training by Ann Cook**
- Gave customized training to on-the-phone sales representatives
- Communication trainer at Touchstone Learning Academy where I trained prospective employees to meet Touchstone hiring criteria.
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#### **English Language Trainer with The Resource Group, Lahore**

- Evaluated and graded existing employees' English language proficiency.
- Conducted training courses on language skills enhancement for less proficient users.

**Software:** MS Office, Adobe Indesign, Aegisub (subtitling software), Memsoure, Wordfast Anywhere, Trados Studio.

**Education:** Masters in English (Peshawar University).

**References:** 1: Yasir Bhatti, Founder of translation.pk, the largest translation vendor in Pakistan

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2: Qaisar Khan Afridi, Media Officer with the UNHCR-Pakistan,

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