

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is a profession? Does translating have the characteristics of a profession? Explain.
2. List some of the methods by which a translator can check a translation for accuracy. Can one rely entirely upon dictionaries in checking the meaning of a word in a given context? What kind of professional preparation should be required for a career in legal translation?
3. Does fluency in two languages guarantee competence in legal translation? Explain your answer.
4. What safeguards should be taken in caring for the personal documents of clients? Why are these precautions necessary? Explain why it is essential to use special discretion in dealing with the following types of documents: adoption papers; immigration papers; professional credentials; divorce proceedings. Can you think of other materials that might contain especially sensitive information?
5. Explain the ethical considerations one should keep in mind when making or retaining photocopies of personal documents.
6. Assume that you have been asked to make a translation of a technical document such as a patent; you attempt the translation and find that it is much too difficult for you. What is the ethical thing to do?

