

emergency medical technicians and fire fighters out there who can comment on this unusual usage?

(F-E 5-03/5) (“agent de maintenance”): Yes, says Ricky Lacina, this is a *cleaning person*, but the objection she raises is that it is prefaced on page 58 of the January 2004 *Chronicle* by the derogatory words *just a*. The use of them is what has given rise over the years to such euphemisms as *sanitation engineer*.

(F-E 1-04/5) (“sans prejudice de”): It means *without prejudice to*, says Ricky Lacina. Using *Harrap’s New* as the support, she finds this example: *to accept a principle without prejudice to the measures already taken*.

(F-E 4-04/2) (“être dur à mon corps”): It refers to *having high tolerance for pain, hardened, or inured to*, says Ricky Lacina.

(F-E 5-04/4) (“disponibilité”): The usual meaning of this is *availability*, asserts Ricky Lacina, and she believes the writer meant that the more personnel available, the greater the demands put upon them (see the original length context quote on page 47 of the May *Chronicle*).

(F-E 6-04/3) (“conjoint[e]”): Dana Goodier calls this simply a *partner*, a non-married live-in boyfriend or girlfriend, as Canadian French renders it. Ricky Lacina considers it a term for *spouse* of either gender. She finds it in her 1959 *Larousse*, and the meaning is remarkably modern there, considering that it was 1959: “intimement uni.” More to the point is this:

“chacun des époux par rapport à l’autre” (*each of the spouses with respect to the other*).

(F-E 6-04/5) (“publireportage”): Leah Brumer suggests *infomercial* for this, and if it is limited to only a few minutes, it may be translated as *minimercial*.

(F-E 6-04/7) (“jacquette”): For Dana Goodier, this is a *button-down sweater or cardigan*.

(F-E 6-04/8) (“chaînes de roulement”): The context suggests to Leonid Gornik that the chains here have nothing to do with the chains that are put onto wheels. The term is out of place here. Caterpillar and other companies make tractors with tracks consisting of rubberized metal links, rather than plain steel links. The term *track* in French is “chenille” or “chemin de roulement,” and this is what they had to use, he contends.

(G-E 6-04/10) (“Tennenfläche”): Although not especially familiar with construction terms, Denzel Dyer believes this refers to a *tamped surface*, as on a field where some sport is played.

(R-E 6-04/12) (поступный контроль): Leonid Gornik prefers *100% inspection to piece-by-piece*. The latter is a random (or sample) inspection, carried out by sampling a specified quantity of identical items from the batch. Denzel Dyer replies that in the U.S., inspection of every item is, as Leonid said above, *100% inspection*.

(R-E 6-04/13) (смотреть как баран на новые ворота): Again, our response comes from Leonid Gornik,

who gives the standard dictionary definition of *to stare like a stuck pig*. To use *paralyzed* appears to be too strong for this condition, expressing an incident in a story where a sheep comes back home and sees a new gate. The implication is that the person is baffled, bemused, and cannot figure out what happened.

(Sp-E 1-04/13) (NBI): One need not quibble about *basic* vs. *essential*, asserts Ricky Lacina, in this abbreviation which works out to be “Necesidades Básicas Insatisfechas.” What caused her to laugh was the notion of what one considers *basic*. Take flush toilets, for example. Are they essential, asks Ricky? No, they represent a step up from truly basic facilities like latrines, which, as she says, are “basic basic.”

(Sp-E 4-04/9) (“seguridad de suministro”): This has to do with a *reliable supply*, which is a concern in the case of energy for many countries around the world, opines Ricky Lacina.

(Sp-E 4-04/10) (“energía comprimida”): This kind of “compressed air,” says Ricky Lacina, is precisely the same as the *compressed air* or oxygen under pressure in diving tanks, and the kind of stuff that one is not permitted to carry aboard aircraft.

The Translation Inquirer will want to meet as many of the above contributors as possible in person at the Toronto conference! You know what I look like—just turn back to the start of this column!

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