

Can (E-)Mentoring Be a Tool for the Career of Future Translators?

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Abstract : The answer is yes. Globalization is changing the translation world day after day, year after year. The need to know more about new technologies, clients, companies, project management and social networks is becoming more and more demanding and increasingly competitive. The great majority of the recently graduated Translators do not know where to go, what to do or even who to contact to start their careers in translation. It is well known that there are innumerable webinars, books, blogs and webpages with the so-called “tips do become a professional translator” indicating for example, what to do, what not to do, rates, how your resume should look like, etc. but are these pieces of advice coming from real translators? Translators who work daily with clients, who understand their demands, requests, questions? As far as today`s trends, the answer is no. Most of these pieces of advice are just theoretical and coming from “brilliant minds” who are more interested in spreading their word and winning “likes” to become, in some way, “important people in some area. Mentoring is, indeed, a highly important tool to help and guide new translators starting their career. An effective and well oriented Mentoring is a powerful way to orient these translators on how to create their resumes, where to send resumes, how to approach clients, how to answer emails and how to negotiate rates in an efficient way. Mentoring is a crucial tool and even some kind of “psychological trigger”, when properly delivered by professional and experienced translators, to help in the so aimed career development. The advice and orientation sessions which can bem 100% done online, using Skype for example, are almost a “weapon” to destroy the barriers created by opinions, by influences or even by universities. This new orientation trend is the future path for new translators and is the future of the Translation industry and professionals and Universities who must update their way of approaching the real translation world, therefore, minds and spirits need to be opened and engaged in this new trend of developing skills.

Keywords : mentoring, orientation, professional follow-up, translation

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