

Visit to the public library – my impressions

We visited the public library on Tuesday where we met a translator. We had interesting conversations with the translator and I learned many details about her job. Firstly, she is an English-German translator, which means that she prefers translation from English to German, because her native language is German. We also had a chance to practice with her as our class translated a few sentences with her. We also asked many questions about her job. We were interested how she had decided to become a translator, what was her motivation, if she worked for a publisher or if she was working alone based on offers (so-called “free-lancer”). She is a free-lancer.

Then we asked her if she worked a lot and hard and if she could earn a lot of money. She answered every question and we got lots of interesting answers. She told us that she worked alone as she usually got many books from authors to translate. But she can decide, if she wants to translate a book and she is not bound to one single publishing company. She answered that she worked every day from morning to evening and when she was getting lots of books she also worked at night sometimes. But she said also that she could organize her working time freely and make breaks when she wanted. She told us that she was not well-paid, but she was not so sad about this because she liked her job and freedom to organize her life. About the last question she said that first she wanted to be an author, but then she translated her first book and that was such fun that she became a translator.

I think the visit was good, interesting and I learned a lot. However, I’m not so enthusiastic and interested in this profession.

Lovro, 8d

The Hieronymus Day

The Hieronymus Day was very exciting. It was interesting to learn how you translate a book. It is a hard job. The woman who told us about her life showed us how difficult it is to translate one or two pages in a book from English to German. And as a translator you aren’t paid by the time, you work, but by the number of pages. You also have to do a second job, because the money isn’t enough to make a living here.

But the woman also told us that she is very happy to work as a translator. I can understand it. In Latin I am also happy when I have translated a very difficult sentence. We also were allowed to try to translate a few of the sentences. It was difficult, and if we had translated in the speed the whole time, we would need a few years to translate one book.

I think it is interesting to be a translator.

Steven, 8d

The translation visit

The visit to the translation course was kind of pretty interesting. I never thought translators take so long to translate a whole book from English into German. Okay, sometimes they also translate into other languages. But mostly from English into German. The woman there told us that she normally needs four months to translate a book, but it depends on the book.

During the visit, we also could ask her many questions and we also had the pleasure to translate some sentences by ourselves. That was pretty cool!

I think the job of a translator is very hard and difficult. Because every person translates a sentence differently. And then it’s hard to find the meaning which fits most. Translators also have the problem that they don’t get much money with the job. They can’t live just from translating, they also need to do something else. In my opinion, I wouldn’t do that job because first it doesn’t fit very well my personality. Then, you don’t get enough money and the third point is it’s very difficult. But I enjoyed the visit very much.

Maren, 8d

My report

We went to the Stadtbücherei at the Südbahnhof. I didn’t really know what we would do because our English teacher, Mr Braun, didn’t know very well either. So I was really excited.

Then the librarian opened the door for us even though the library was still closed! Before we got in, Mr Braun warned us to be very careful with the things in there. With my friends I looked for a book that would be interesting (Das Schicksal ist ein mieser Verräter), but we didn’t find it. We wanted to ask the librarian but it was almost time for the workshop.

It was very interesting, the translator gave us some parts of the book. They were really funny and we had to translate the English words into German. Some words were really complicated, but it was cool. The book sounds interesting and I learned many English words. The most interesting thing of the workshop was the job of the woman. I didn’t know that it was so stressful. But the day was really interesting. And maybe I will read the book, too.

Souhaila, 8d

Job as a translator

If someone would like to use the English language in his or her working life, the job as a translator is a perfect choice. You can do it as a full-time job, but also as a second job.

As a translator, you have to translate a book or a letter into English from German and the other way round.

It’s easier to do the job if you have lived in an English-speaking country or if it is your mother tongue. When the client gives you an order, you have a window of time to do your job, although you have the possibility to influence the time span.

Moreover, sometimes many people work on one order. That makes it better if you make some mistakes. To prevent them, translators use a dictionary. It is the most important instrument they have.

As a translator, you have to work on as many orders as possible to cover your basic needs. That’s the reason why most translators do this job on the side.

However, we should more appreciate the job of a translator, because they allow us the access to important literature.

Tara, 8d