

# Maria Karra



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## ◆ EDUCATION

- **Master of Applied Linguistics**, concentration: Phonetics, Phonology, and Second-Language Acquisition; Macquarie University, 2004. *Thesis*: "Intonation of Questions in Greek". Speech-pattern analysis: pitch accents and boundary tones in Yes/No and Wh- questions produced by native Greek speakers.
- **Certificate in Translation (Master's level)** English-French and French-English; Collège Universitaire de Saint-Boniface, University of Manitoba, 2001. *Thesis*: Scientific translation from French into English; analysis of applied techniques and compilation of domain-specific glossary (Physics/Astronomy).
- **M.S. in Electrical Engineering**, concentration: Electromagnetics and Photonics; Boston University, 1999. *Thesis*: A Study of the Imaging Electron Sensor onboard the Polar Spacecraft and Optimization of the System Readout Methods.
- **B.S. in Engineering Physics**, concentration: Space Physics and Spacecraft Design; **Minor in Mathematics**; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, 1998. *Senior Design Project*: Design of the communications subsystem of a spacecraft for the exploration of Europa's subsurface; design of RF antennas and cables, data processing and storage devices.

## ◆ WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Technical Translator and Editor**, freelance, 2000-present.  
*Language combinations: English, French, Spanish > Greek & Greek, French, Spanish > English.*  
Specialization areas: Electrical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Information Technology, Automotive Engineering.
- **Greek language instructor**, Boston Language Institute, 2006-present, part-time.
- **Senior Quality Engineer**, Cambridge Associates LLC, January 2006 – August 2009.  
Financial software testing.
- **Software Quality Engineer**, The MathWorks Inc., May 2000 – Sep 2004 (except March 2001 – July 2001)  
Mathematical software (MATLAB) testing. Design and teaching of Quality Engineering training classes.
- **Translation Intern**, European Commission Translation Service, March 2001-July 2001  
Translated EU documents (EU regulations, directives, press releases and Commissioners' speeches) from English and French into Greek. Subjects: Research & Technology, Environment, Energy and Transport, Information Technology.
- **Research assistant**, Boston University, Sep. 1998- Dec. 1999  
Space physics research and spacecraft-instrumentation testing. Examination of anomalies caused by solar particles in the Earth's magnetosphere. This research was presented at the American Geophysical Union conference in Boston in 1999.

## ◆ LANGUAGES

- English, Greek, French, Spanish (*professional*)
- Dutch, Portuguese (*fluent*)
- German, Italian (*intermediate*)
- Turkish, Chinese (*beginner*)

## ◆ LANGUAGE CERTIFICATES

- Teaching License for the French Language, *Ministry of National Education and Religion, Greece 1994.*
- Diploma of French Studies, level II, *University of Paris-Sorbonne, 1993.*
- Advanced Diploma of the French Language (DALF), option Mathematics and Material Sciences, Ministry of National Education of the French Republic, 1993.
- Advanced Diploma of Spanish (Superior), *University of Salamanca, 1994.*

## ◆ COMPUTER SKILLS

- Certified Tester Foundation Level, American Software Testing Qualifications Board, March 2007.
- Computer-Aided Translation tools: TRADOS, Systran.
- Usability and Accessibility training.
- Extensive training in object-oriented programming.
- Computer Languages: C, C++, M (MATLAB), SQL, Perl, HTML, Visual Basic.

## ◆ PUBLICATIONS / ARTICLES

- Karra, M. and T.A. Fritz, “**Energy Dispersion Features in the Vicinity of the Cusp**”, *Geophysical Research Letters*, Vol. 26, No. 23, December 1, 1999.
- Fritz, T.A., J. Chen, J. D. Sullivan and M. Karra, “**Is the Cusp a Source or a Sink for Magnetospheric Energetic Particles?**”, *Interball, Kyiv 2000, Proceedings of International Symposium, February 1-4, 2000.*
- Karra, M., “**Science or Translation?**”, *The Translation Journal*, January 2000.
- Karra, M., “**Second Language Acquisition: Learners’ Errors and Error Correction in Language Teaching**”, <http://www.proz.com/translation-articles/articles/633/>, March 2006.
- Karra, M., “**Greek Cultural Keywords: Language Reflecting Culture Through Vocabulary**”, <http://www.proz.com/translation-articles/articles/637/>, March 2006.
- Karra, M., “**Why are some children better at understanding what they read than others? A critical review.**”, *submitted to the Journal of Language and Linguistics*, May 2007.
- Karra, M., “**Aspiration of Voiceless Stops in English by Native Speakers of Spanish: A Case Study.**”, *submitted to Spanish in Context*, May 2007.
- Karra, M., “**The Linguistic Conflict in Belgium**”, <http://www.proz.com/translation-articles/articles/1250/>, June 2007.
- Karra, M., “**Is there a ‘critical age’ for language acquisition?**”, <http://www.proz.com/translation-articles/articles/1260/>, June 2007.

## ◆ MEMBERSHIPS

- **International Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters (IAPTI)**: Founding member and President of Ethics Committee
- **American Translators Association (ATA)**: Associate member
- **American Geophysical Union (AGU)**: Member
- **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)**: Senior member