



Newsletter

English into Portuguese Translator

Specialised in:
Legal & Engineering in the areas of:

Environment
HSE & Shipping
Hydroelectric Power
Mining and Geology
Oil and Gas

Social Sciences & International Humanitarian Aid

Member of



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... to the kitchen

Recipe: Gluten-free raisin biscuits



Launch of our website in Portuguese – We have recently launched a Portuguese version of our website aiming to provide information on services provided, areas of work and Mónica Machado's working experience. Areas such as News, Feedback and CSR are only available in English though. This Portuguese version of the website can be visited [here](#). "Although most of our website visitors speak English, a number of our current and future clients have Portuguese as their mother tongue and we felt we should have some information readily available for them. This website was translated by a professional colleague and localised to reflect the needs of the local markets by myself. I hope current and future clients find this useful.", Mónica Machado.

From the office...

Introduction

This 18th issue focuses on the challenges and rewards of **translating documentation on social sciences and international humanitarian aid** and **providing website localisation services**. Mónica Machado also talks about translating for an interesting **hydropower** project in Angola and providing language tuition for those learning Portuguese as a second language. There are also a couple of small articles about current special rates, interesting reading and the launch of our website in Portuguese. To finalise this newsletter, we decode the term *website localisation* and Mónica shares a gluten-free raisin biscuits recipe. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and look forward to hearing from you.

Interview

In this issue, Mónica Machado is interviewed about her experience in translating documentation **on social sciences and international humanitarian aid for African Portuguese countries and Angola** in particular.

Interviewer – In what way are subjects on **social sciences and international humanitarian aid** different from your other areas of expertise?

MM – The main difference is that social sciences and international humanitarian aid are subjects that relate directly to people's welfare. When translating about **hunger, food scarcity and lack of housing, water or sanitation**, we need to be sensitive towards the people affected by these daily problems which are often hard to imagine while standing from our own European comfortable perspectives.

Interviewer – Apart the human nature of these subjects, is **translation research** any different for these subject areas?

MM – No, not really. We need to determine which

research facilities are more reliable both in terms of subject matters and terminology. As in other technical areas, it is essential to select well-informed sources, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reputable national organisations such as Government bodies in the countries for which the documents to be translated are intended.

Interviewer – Is there much cooperation between translators and authors in these fields?

MM – Certainly. No matter how well we have researched the theme and the corresponding terminology in our target language, authors often have terminology or style preferences we need to be aware of. In my areas of work, I often translate texts which are then proofread by the text authors themselves, as they are simultaneously the authors of the material to be translated and the in-country reviewers of the translation itself. In these cases, it is normal to receive feedback once the translation is delivered, or even be asked to go back to the reviewed translation to make sure the reviewers have been consistent during the translation reviewing process.

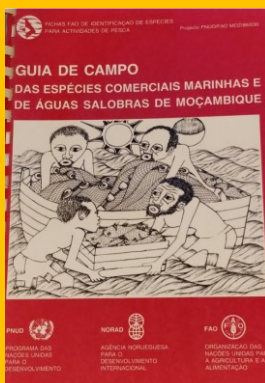
Interviewer – So, in those cases, are you, the translator, allowed to change the reviewer's work?

MM – In those cases, we work as a team and the translator is the language expert allowed to make sure the reviewer has been consistent with his/her changes and has not input any grammar, syntax or spelling mistakes. Remember that, often, authors are subject experts rather than language experts and for a translation to be perfect we need a good symbiosis between these two areas.

Interviewer – Any advice for younger translators trying to get into this exciting new area?

MM – My advice would be to read a lot of technical documentation in this area and to put themselves in the shoes of those young children that have no regular food, no clean water, no sanitation and no schools. This exercise will stimulate empathy and then translators will be a bit more ready to start providing good translations in the areas of social sciences and international humanitarian aid.

Interesting Reading:



"For this issue I have chosen a working book [*Field Guide of Commercial Fish Species found in Marine and Brackish Waters of Mozambique*] which has helped me immensely in the past when translating environmental projects for Mozambique. This invaluable terminological resource was issued in Portuguese by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 1990 and remains current today. Financed by UNDP and NORAD, this field guide lists all the commercial fish species found in marine and brackish waters of Mozambique and it was prepared by both Mozambican and International experts. With indexes of species names in English, Portuguese and Latin (scientific names), and dozens of coloured fish pictures, this extraordinary resource allows exact translations that are both applicable to the local market and familiar to national experts.", Mónica Machado.

FAQ

Our website has a FAQ area answering most frequently asked questions.

For example:

Q.: "How do you assure quality?"

A.: "All translations are proofread separately on paper. Translations from European Portuguese into English are also proofread by a native speaker with many years of experience in authoring in engineering fields. Also, our clients receive random quality questionnaires where they are asked about quality, terminology, rates, timeframes, service, etc. On the form, clients can make any comments deemed appropriate. Also, as a member of ITI, CIOL and ATA, Mónica Machado endorses the codes of practice of these institutes. For more details, please refer to the codes under [Resources](#)."

For more questions and answers, please visit our [FAQ](#) section online.

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Website localisation

At Monica Machado Translation Services we also provide **localisation services**. In our particular instance, this is mainly provided when translating websites from English into Portuguese. Website localisation consists in adapting an existing website to the language and culture of the target market, therefore adapting it to a different linguistic and cultural context, and involves much more than a simple translation of text.

To localise a website, it is important to know the market the localised website is to serve as well as the product being described or advertised by that website. As an example, we will discuss the work we recently carried out as part of the localisation of Monica Machado Translation Services's website. Our own website was published only in English a few years ago. The English version was meant to be as complete as possible as it is the face of our business. Although we always intended to have it translated into Portuguese, we were not sure whether the content of the English version was of interest to our prospective Portuguese-speaking market. For instance, would our Company Social Responsibility (CSR) page be understood for what it is in Portugal, where the subject is not entirely known or practiced by much of the Portuguese market? Would our News and Feedback areas be of interest at all or seem rather long and tedious?

After some serious thinking about this issue, we have decided that the Portuguese version of our website would benefit from being smaller and more market-specific. Therefore, we contracted a translator to translate our English website into Portuguese and then Mónica Machado herself carried out the localisation. This process ensured that the translation was accurate but also reflected the market to which it was intended. Some sections deemed of little interest were left out while others were developed further to respond to local market needs. "Prospective clients in local markets look for different things when visiting a website and it is essential that we know this to decide whether to simply translate our website or localise it to a specific market. I have decided to have my website translated into Portuguese first and then localise it myself, but it is possible to localise a website without going into the translation stage first. It is all a matter of choice and you should discuss the best process for your website with the company that is providing this particular language service to you.", Mónica Machado.

.. to the kitchen

Gluten-free raisin biscuits

Ingredients:

100 g unsalted butter and equal amount of caster sugar
125 g dark brown soft sugar
1 large egg and 60 ml cream
200 g gluten-free plain flour
½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda; ½ teaspoon guar gum; 200 g gluten-free porridge oats and 100 g raisins

Method:

- 1) Melt the butter. Combine the sugars in a large bowl, pour in the melted butter and stir to combine.
- 2) Beat the egg and stir into the mixture with the cream.
- 3) Sieve in the flour and bicarbonate of soda and then stir in the remaining ingredients. Place heaped tablespoons of the mixture onto the prepared tray, flattening them slightly with your fingers and making sure you leave a 4cm gap between each.
- 4) Place in the oven, pre-heated at 180°C, for around 14 minutes, or until golden and crisp. Leave to cool before trying them and enjoy! Recipe from Jamie Oliver tested by Mónica Machado.

Interesting project – Hydropower is a very important source of energy in **Africa** and more and more Governments are trying to make use of their water resources to take power to many geographically distant communities. In the past we have been involved in the translation of different documents for a couple of large **hydropower dams in Angola** and most recently we have been contracted to work on another new project. "I am honoured to be selected to be part of these exciting projects that will improve people's lives, bringing power to houses, schools, medical centres and businesses and creating new opportunities for communities which are often forgotten due to their remoteness.", Mónica Machado.

Business News

Portuguese tuition – 1:1 classes – Last year a couple of clients planning to either move to Portugal or accept a job offer in Angola contacted us to see whether we could **teach them Portuguese** in a 1:1 basis. Mónica Machado had in the past been a teacher in Portugal and saw this request as an opportunity to get back to a very different line of business: "Learning Portuguese is not an easy task as we have a complex grammar and a normal tendency to say a full sentence without many significant breaks in between the different sentence components. I praise new learners for their endeavours in learning Portuguese and see each class as a true pleasure.", Mónica Machado. If you think you would like to **learn Portuguese** from scratch or improve your knowledge of the language, contact us. We have 1:1 flexible packages that adapt to your needs and time availability and our classes take place online over "Zoom". Our teaching materials follow the European Portuguese Course for Foreign Students used all over the World and are prepared by Instituto Camões, in Lisbon. So, after completing A1 & A2 levels students can do an exam online and get a certification.

Special rates for longer or open deadlines – Did you know we offer special rates for projects giving us longer or open deadlines? If you have a **book for translation** but no special rush in receiving the translated material or if you would like us to review your website over the next couple of months, you can benefit from special rates, as long as there are no fixed deadlines. [Contact us](#) for a **free quote**.

A Special Thanks to the NHS – In November last year Monica Machado Translation Services decided, as part of the yearly **CSR** programme, to support some ex-Services friends who are now bravely working in the NHS in the fight against COVID-19 by buying some Poppy brooches dear to them for wearing in November when "Remembrance Day" is celebrated in the UK. It is most important to point out that in the UK commemorating "Remembrance Day" is intended to unite people of all faiths, nationalities, cultures, and backgrounds and not to glorify war, and its symbol, the red poppy, represents both remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. It is interesting to note that Remembrance Services were also held in Portugal at Lisbon, Praia da Luz, Porto, Madeira and Algarve in 2020. To all those currently working hard to save us, a **BIG THANK YOU**, wherever YOU are.

Decoding translation expressions:

Website localisation – Website localisation consists in adapting an existing website to the language and culture of the target market, therefore adapting it to a different linguistic and cultural context, and involves much more than a simple translation of text. When in doubt, please [contact us](#) for clarification on whether you require website translation or localisation.