**UNIVERSITY MOHAMED LAMINE DEBAGHINE– SETIF 2**

**Faculty of Arts and Languages**

**Department of English Language and Literature**

**Course: Translation**

**Level: 3rd Year**

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**Freelance Translator and In-house Translator**

When starting a professional career as a translator or interpreter, there is a very important choice you need to make regarding how you would like to work. The choice might depend on your current situation or job availability, but it also depends on how you want your work life to be structured. If you do not want to necessarily be bound to a contract or to rates that you can’t set yourself, then you would probably lean towards working as a freelancer. However, if you like more structure and having a contract, then you would most likely prefer working in-house.

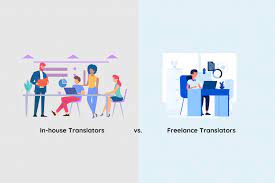
Are you considering if it’s better to work as an in-house or a freelance translator?

The form of employment is very crucial, so when weighing the decision be sure you’re taking into account your individual predispositions and preferences. There are people out there who especially value the freedom associated with self-employment and wouldn’t trade it for the world. For others, it’s the stable work environment and payroll that work as a magnet, making them seek employment as in-house translators.

In the translation industry, there are two types of translators: the **freelance translator** and the **in-house translator**.

A freelance translator or independent translator is self-employed, just like an entrepreneur. They must network to find translation contracts. They also offer their services to translation agencies.

An in-house translator, on the other hand, is employed within an organization or a company. They can work from their office or home, and have fixed working hours. Just like an employee, they are paid monthly salaries.



**In-house translator (Traducteur salarié, traducteur d’entreprise,**

**مترجم داخل منشأة – مترجم في مؤسسة – مترجم أجير):**

“Nobody likes Sundays, especially office employees.”

As an office worker, an in-house translator is usually expected to work in an office. Translation is intellectual work that requires focus and a calm mind. Thus, the office -a place that is often very noisy - may not be appropriate for translation. Doors opening, colleagues chatting and the infectious laughter of that colleague who is constantly telling jokes are all part of office life. The in-house translator must be able to cope with all these distractions to do his or her job well, which is not always easy. Increasingly, however, more in-house translators also work remotely due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

In addition, an in-house translator usually cannot decide whether or not to translate specific texts.

However, working in an office has its advantages. The translator has the chance to work directly with many people. They can meet many new people who share the same interests and this also reduces boredom. In addition, a monthly income is assured.

Furthermore, translators need a number of tools to do their job well. Printers, CAT tools, reliable internet connection. Very often, the employer provides all these tools to in-house translators, whereas freelance translators have to purchase these tools themselves.

An in-house translator is hired by a specific company to perform translation services ''in-house," or on-site. Therefore, the translations will be specific to that field. In-house positions are usually accompanied by set hours and a salary, plus often includes benefits. When seeking a position, it is important to realise that you may not be spending your entire work week actually translating. Corporations and schools frequently hire translators, but overestimate the amount of work that will be coming in; your language skills may not be used as often as you would like.

Nevertheless, in-house translation jobs are a great option if you are looking for a steady paycheck and schedule or if you are interested in specialising in that industry. It is also a good way to get experience when you are first starting out in your translation career. Many agencies and clients prefer that a translator have a minimum of three to five years of translation experience before they are hired on as freelancers. An in-house position is an effective way to get that experience.

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| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| * - secure salary * - compensation package * - working for big names add to the resume * learn from team-members * - free training * - no investment, no expenses | * - little mobility * - no control over work * - more stressful work environment * - lack of independence * - cap on earnings |

**Freelance translator (Traducteur indépendant, مترجم مستقل، مترجم حر):**

A freelance translator can wake up at any time, choose to wear a pyjama or even work while lying down comfortably in bed, decide which texts they prefer to translate, and prepare their own work schedules.

Being a freelance translator also has its challenges. If one is not very organised, this could lead to failure to deliver translation projects on time. Spending hours alone and locked up staring at a computer could also make the work tedious and boring. A freelance translator earns money according to the number of contracts they can find. This usually leads to the “feast and famine cycle” which is well known in the language services industry.

As a freelance translator, it is your own responsibility to find jobs. Because you find your own work, you can set your own hours, work from home, and decide your own pay rate. Working freelance also allows you to work around other part-time jobs. A translator's salary is determined by how much they are willing to work, what they charge, and how quickly they can get documents back to the contracting company.

The payment metric for translation is primarily per word, though it is not uncommon to see jobs that pay per page or total. The amount that you charge depends on how quickly it needs to be returned to the client, as well as the length, and specialization of the words in the document. Keep in mind, like any job, your understanding and execution of your objective(s) are always a factor in determining the value of your services.

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| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| * - High mobility, live and work anywhere you want. * - Work on what you want for who you want. * - Less stressful environment. * - High independence. * - No cap on earnings for highly productive translators. | * - Lack of stability: stop working and no more money. * - No benefits such as health insurance and personal days. * - Working alone is not for everyone. * - You pay your training. * - Spend money on IT and monthly expenses from your pocket. |

### An in-house or a freelance translator?

#### ****Worrying about new clients****.

As an in-house translator, you’ve got people to do it for you – or to be precise, your colleagues from advertising and marketing departments. Unlike freelancers, it’s enough if you’re just good at translating, you don’t need to think twice about any intrapersonal skills. All you’ve got to do is be good at your job and deliver your work on time. Freelancers, on the other hand, need to know a little bit about everything: advertising, marketing, psychology and sometimes accounting too. Some people may not be fit for working as a freelancer as they may lack the ability to push themselves forward.

#### ****Client relationship****.

In-house translators don’t have to waste their time building a relationship with a client. Retaining clients, keeping up with competitors or negotiating terms of your agreement can take much of your time and effort. The time you could spend doing what you do best – translating. On the other hand, for a freelancer, it can be a worthy investment. If you manage to land a recurring client who is satisfied with your services, is there anything more you could wish for, except for more such clients?

#### ****Money and perks.****

Fixed income, paid sick leaves and vacation, insurance and other perks. Such as computers and necessary software, are difficult to underrate. You don’t even have to worry about electricity, internet bills or paying the office rent. Once again, all you have to do, is to do your job. Freelancers usually need to take care of all of the above themselves.

#### ****Flexibility.****

When it comes to working hours, in-house translators often have to grin and bear it. If working on a set schedule is something you find particularly challenging, perhaps you should think about going freelance? You’d be able to sleep in and take as many breaks as you need, as long as you can keep the deadline. You will never lose your temper when stuck in a traffic jam while commuting to work. And hardly anything can top the comfort of completing a project in your pyjamas.

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| **Freelance translating** | **In-house translating** |
| Flexibility is at the heart of freelancing — you decide where, when, and how to work. | Permanent workflow, an opportunity to focus only on the process of translating. |
| Ability to choose what and for whom to translate. | Insurance, annual leave, possible promotion. |
| Additional business-related and managerial tasks — selecting either a full-time or part time job translator, how to negotiate certain issues, how to get an order, etc. | Stable income, communication with colleagues and fellows, no need to spend your time on self-promotion, etc. |

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* <https://jobsforeditors.com/blog/in-house-translating-vs-freelance-translating.html>
* [https://bolingoconsult.com/should-you-be-a-freelance-or-an-in-house translator/#:~:text=A%20freelance%20translator%20or%20independent,an%20organization%20or%20a%20company](https://bolingoconsult.com/should-you-be-a-freelance-or-an-in-house-translator/#:~:text=A%20freelance%20translator%20or%20independent,an%20organization%20or%20a%20company).
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