MANAKO IHAYA
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Japanese/English interpreter and translator
ATA-certified for translation from Japanese into English
California Court-Registered Japanese Interpreter

Experience:

Free-lance interpreter/translator/editor/proofreader/writer/expert witness on Japanese language
Tokyo and California
March 1988 to February 1990; March 1994 to present
As a consecutive and simultaneous interpreter, my experience includes interpreting at depositions, trials, mediations and arbitrations (patents, product liability, breach of contract and many others), business meetings, conferences, PMDA audits, focus groups, presentations, training sessions, medical lectures, tours, and others.
As a translator, I translate from Japanese to English and vice versa, also providing editing and proofreading services. Over the years, I have translated various brochures and catalogs, annual reports, legal documents, deposition transcripts, IT manuals and procedures, medical device manuals, newsletters, movie, TV, video and videogame scripts, and a variety of other materials.
As an expert witness on Japanese language and culture, I've testified in a case at a deposition and at trial.

Staff writer/editor
The Japan Times, Tokyo
November 1989 to February 1994
I did my own research and reporting, wrote cover stories, features, profiles and the occasional column. Other duties included translating, editing, proofreading, writing headlines and captions, selecting photos and illustrations and laying out pages for The Japan Times Weekly, a sister publication of The Japan Times, the largest English-language newspaper in Japan.

English Instructor
Simul Academy, Tokyo
October 1989 to March 1990 (part-time)
I taught English as a language lab teacher to intermediate and advanced English students at this renowned translator/interpreter training school, using recorded news on radio and television.

Overseas telephone operator
Kokusai Denshin Denwa, Tokyo
July 1981 to February 1990 (part-time)
I connected callers in Japan and abroad on station-to-station, person-to-person, collect and other calls. In addition to English and Japanese, I spoke basic Chinese, Korean and French.

Education

Sophia University, Tokyo, Bachelor's degree in English Literature, 1986
International Christian University High School, Tokyo, 1981
Educated in Japan and USA (Florida and California from the sixth to 10th grades)

Professional Training

UCLA Extension, Los Angeles: completed Court Interpretation Techniques in 2004
Simul Academy, Tokyo: completed Japanese-into-English and English-into-Japanese translation courses in 1989

Member

American Translators Association (ATA-Certified to translate from Japanese into English since 1999, Japanese-into-English certification exam grader since 2008, Language Chair from 2019 to 2022, Certification Committee member since 2022, Board member 2021 to 2024)
Japan Association of Translators (President from 2007 to 2009)
National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators
Court Interpreters Program, Judicial Council of California (enrolled as Registered Japanese Interpreter since 2025)