

# 15<sup>th</sup> St. Jerome Translation Contest

— 2020 EDITION —

Remarks by the judges

Spanish

It has been an honour to be selected as judges for the fifteenth St. Jerome Translation Contest, and a pleasure to take on the very difficult task of marking the entries. First of all, we would like to congratulate the organizers of the Contest on its fifteenth anniversary, which attests to the success of this celebration of multilingualism at the United Nations. It will soon come of age, and we wish that it be held for many years to come. We were also glad to see that the original text chosen to be translated into Spanish was about such a strong and inspiring woman as Tina Turner.

Personally, it made me go back to a time of correcting papers, assessing translations and choosing best solutions - something I haven't done in a while now that, just like Tina Turner, I'm retired, I don't go out, I don't dress up, I'm having the time of my life! When I started reading the contestants' papers, I wondered how many of them knew who Tina Turner was and what she meant to people who were young in the sixties and seventies. They are probably more familiar with Coldplay, and so when they spotted what they thought was a mistake, they went out of the way to check with the author of the article and include a note to explain why they decided to shorten the quotation in order to make it more correct.

Contestants showed a full array of translation skills. For example, two of them proved to be great collaborators, as they managed to deliver the same exact translation! Another one was a real computer geek, but he or she failed to pass the DeepL test. Most of them, though, had brilliant solutions to the various challenges posed by the text. It was fun to realize how many different interpretations a "saucy shag" could have, all of them quite colourful, even if some did not evoke precisely the same thing, or what it meant for people to have an "in-ground swimming pool". The translation of the title lent itself to creative interpretation with versions such as "Tina Turner está livin' la vida" or "Tina Turner, en lo mejor de la vida", which were clearly reminiscent of Ricky Martin and Julio Iglesias.

On a more serious note, we would like to send our congratulations to the winners, thank all contestants for taking the time to participate, and encourage everybody to have a go next year. Lastly, we give a special mention to all United Nations language professionals, the incarnation of multilingualism at the Organization, always ready to adapt and deliver no matter what lies ahead, be it budget cuts, doing more with less, artificial intelligence threats or a pandemic. As Tina Turner would put it, "You're simply the best, better than all the rest".