ITD – International Translation Day 2024
FIT ITD Global Webinar – "Translation, an art worth protecting"

Biosketch:

Cristina Valentini is Head of the Terminology Unit, Support Section, PCT Translation Division, World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva. She has been working at WIPO since 2010 and her main tasks involve the design and development of terminology resources (WIPO Pearl) and guidelines, terminology workflow management, and design and coordination of terminology projects. In 2009 she received a Ph.D. in Languages, Cultures, and Intercultural Communication from the University of Bologna, Italy. Since 2016, she has been appointed as a WIPO expert for participating in the activities of ISO Technical Committee 37 "Language and Technology". She is the author of several conference communications and articles on terminology in the field of patents.

Concept of my intervention:

Terminology is crucial for the training of translators and for them to make effective use of new AI technologies, particularly those specializing in technical and legal fields, such as patent translation. But how does it fit in the current scenario of growing automation of translation processes? Can terminology work be a task that can be delegated to generative AI, neural machine translation, and/or large language models?

Neural machine translation and generative AI can assist translators when conducting terminological searches, helping them with specific tasks such as term extraction and equivalence. However, solid bases in terminology science are needed for a translator to validate the accuracy of the AI output. In this regard, terminology training equips translators with key skills in linguistics, data science, and subject matter understanding. WIPO offers terminology training to its translation staff on a continuous basis and has a program for young people whereby students come at WIPO to work specifically in terminology. In addition, WIPO has a terminology collaboration program with universities worldwide that helps spread knowledge of terminology and patents in languages and cultures where terminology is not traditionally taught, thus helping universities to enhance their translation academic curricula.