

**Michael Shipley**

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**OBJECTIVE**      **Russian–English translator**

- SUMMARY**
- Fifteen years as the Russian–English translator for *The Moscow Times* daily newspaper
  - Contributing translator for the Russian government’s Valdai International Discussion Club
  - Native English speaker with 25 years of experience in Russia
  - Not just a translator – also a copywriter, proofreader, journalist, poet, and lyricist
  - Excellent communicator; reliable; punctual; honest

**WORK  
EXPERIENCE**

**Russian – English Translator, *The Moscow Times*  
2006 – present, Internet–based  
Chita, Russia**

Responsibilities

- Translate and provide initial edit for Russian articles on politics, military matters, economic conditions and social issues for the Op–Ed Page of *The Moscow Times* daily newspaper.
- Work under strict daily deadlines and in conformity with translation rules established by *The Moscow Times’* editorial board.
- Responsible to research all of the authors’ historical and other references on the Internet in order to provide maximum clarity for the end reader.

**Russian – English Translator, Valdai International Discussion Club  
2016 – present, Internet–based**

Responsibilities

- Translate and provide initial edit for Russian articles on politics, military matters, economic conditions, and social issues for the Valdai International Discussion Club, a high–level project of the Russian government.
- Work under strict daily deadlines and in conformity with translation rules established by the editorial board.
- Responsible to research all of the authors’ historical and other references to provide maximum clarity for the end reader.

**Russian–English Translator, Newmen Publishing House  
2016 – present**

Responsibilities

- Translate a wide range of texts from Russian into English.
- Proofread and edit English texts for marketing brochures, major financial institutions, national airlines, universities, and other Newmen clients located in Russia and abroad.

**Russian – English Translator, IMEDIA.ru website  
2008 – present    Internet–based, part–time  
Chita, Russia**

Responsibilities

- Translate advertising copy for a range of publications such as the Russian editions of National Geographic, Cosmopolitan, Men's Health and Good Housekeeping magazines.
- Work under strict daily deadlines and in conformity with translation rules established by the IMEDIA editorial board.
- Responsible to research all of the authors' historical and other references on the Internet in order to provide maximum clarity for the end reader.

**Freelance Russian-English translator**  
**2010 – present Internet-based, part-time**  
**Chita, Russia**

Responsibilities

- Translated a large range of texts for corporate and private clients covering academic, legal, real estate, business, literary, and miscellaneous semi-technical subject matter.

**Freelance Journalist**  
**1999 – 2006**  
**Chita, Russia**

Responsibilities

- Drawing on my years of experience in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Chita, published articles concerning Russian life for *The Moscow Times*, *Dallas Morning News*, the *Abilene Reporter-News* and the web site *Drivers.com*.
- Learned to write and edit concisely and on deadline, as well as to conduct interviews and gather information from a range of sources.

**Television and Radio Programs, Creator & Co-Host**  
**1996 – 1998**  
**Chita, Russia**

Responsibilities

- Created, wrote, and co-hosted with my Russian wife both a weekly television show called "The English Factory" and a radio program named "A Look Inside." On television we taught English through humorous skits, and on radio we translated popular Western pop songs, adding biographical information about the singers. I learned how to produce original material on deadline month after month, and how to establish a positive rapport with our audience.

**Voice over artist & Russian-English translator**  
**2012 & 2014, Script. Shot. Sound company**  
**Moscow, Russia**

Responsibilities

- Recorded voice over track for promotional video at professional sound studios in Moscow, editing text where necessary to sync audio with video track.
- Responsible to first translate Russian texts into English for short documentary films. I changed phrasing wherever necessary so that English version "flowed" smoothly.

**Unity Publishing Trust,**  
**Co-founder & Manager of Distribution for CIS Countries**  
**1992 – 1995**  
**St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia**

## Responsibilities

- Instrumental in bringing together qualified personnel to found a small publishing trust with operations in St. Petersburg and Moscow.
- Organized a warehousing and distribution system serving the CIS countries.
- Set business policy together with other co-founders, maintained correspondence with clients, generated and filled book orders. Frequently undertook and saw to completion projects without any supervision. All work required both tenacity and flexibility, given the sporadic and indefinite nature of the country's infrastructure, especially in the years immediately following 'perestroika.'
- Having started this job with little knowledge of Russia or Russian, it was a "sink or swim" experience from which I learned not only the language, but the way to get things done in Russia.

### **Constitutional Rights Foundation, Administrative Assistant 1990 – 1991 Los Angeles, California, USA**

## Responsibilities

- Composed and edited correspondence between the non-profit Constitutional Rights Foundation and sponsoring organizations and individuals. Here I learned to communicate clearly, succinctly, and in a tone befitting a large, non-profit public service organization.

### **Resumes, Inc., Resume Writer 1989–1990 Riverside, California, USA**

## Responsibilities

- Staffed a one-man office composing and editing resumes for walk-in clients working in a wide range of professions. This job required above all the ability to gather information, write, edit and format text under constant deadlines.

## EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Screenwriting, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, 1987
- Honors student; Recipient of the Bank of America Award and USC Presidential Scholarship

## OTHER SKILLS

- Fluent Russian speaker and reader
- Proficient in Microsoft Office programs
- Have high-speed Internet cable connection

## PERSONAL

- Married, with two grown children living abroad
- U.S. citizen, holding Russian "green card" (Vid na zhitelstvo) enabling me to remain in Russia without a visa.

## BRIEF PORTFOLIO

[mship.journoportfolio.com](http://mship.journoportfolio.com)

## ADDITIONAL TRANSLATION & WRITING SAMPLES

Available upon request.

