

# Jim Rion

Rion English Support

Translator, Editor, Writer

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As a writer and language educator for most of my life, I bring a deep understanding and love of the English language to my work. I can create smooth, compelling translations of your text, or write an original document, to your specifications, that will achieve your goals whatever they may be.

- ~5 years as a freelance translator, working with private clients and agencies
- 12+ years as an ESL teacher, including training in business writing for Japanese clients
- 5+ years' experience with editing and proofing Japanese translations
- Real life work inside the silicon wafer and semiconductor industries, including daily reading, editing and translation of reports, presentations, and meeting minutes at a silicon wafer fab.
- Long personal familiarity with Japanese metalworking and smithing, including interviewing (And hammering out my own razor blanks with) second generation razor smith Shigeyoshi Iwasaki at his home in Niigata, as well as meeting with swordsmith Sadatoshi Kobayashi in Oku-Izumo
- Participant in the Kurodahan Press Translation Prize 5 years running, and in the 2016 LocJAM Japan video game localization contest.



## LANGUAGES

Japanese and German to US English (native)

## SPECIALIZATIONS

Tourism, Entertainment/Culture (Gaming, TV etc.), Japanese Sake, Silicon Wafer and Semiconductor Industry, PR/Marketing materials, General business communication

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Japan Association of Translators (JAT), Member in Good Standing

## EXPERIENCE

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### *Freelance Translator* | **RES**

April 2011 – Ongoing

As a translator of Japanese to English, I have worked with numerous local clients and national agencies on projects ranging from restaurant menus to manga, but with primary experience in tourism and video gaming. I've translated regional tourist websites and visitor pamphlets for areas all over Hokkaido, as well as games on console, PC and mobile platforms, and equipment manuals for major manufacturers.

Other fields in which I've worked include manga (12 volumes), robotics (journal and website articles), manufacturing (automotive, civil engineering, and semiconductor industries) and television/video (scripts for children's anime and documentaries).

### *Business Skills Instructor* | **ALC Education**

October 2007-January 2016

As a business skills instructor, in addition to general English communication skills, I provided training in Presentation techniques, meeting skills, negotiations and business writing (including editing and translating business documents) to employees at major Japanese companies such as Hitachi High Technologies, Idemitsu Petrochemical, Tokuyama Corporation, and Siltronic Japan.

## EDUCATION

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### **JAT Spring Ejuku** Feb-March, 2016

This training course for new translators is aimed at boosting basic translation skills and increasing focus on the issues and challenges that translators must deal with every day.

### **University of Iowa** May, 2003

MA, German Linguistics, TA in German department, Informal participant in Inaugural Translator's Workshop, 2002

### **University of Tulsa** May, 2000

BA, German and Philosophy. Dean's Honor Roll 1996-1999. Honors Program. National Merit Scholar. Outstanding student in German, 2000. Member, Honors Program Selection Committee.

## RELATED SKILLS

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- Comfortable with OmegaT, Wordfast, Espresso, Trados and FELIX CAT tools.
- Constantly engaged in continuing independent education. I taught myself Japanese, and studied through Kyoko Hasegawa's Routledge Course in Japanese Translation independently as a way of polishing my basic translation skills. I have also studied Japanese Semiconductor terminology and basics through several textbooks
- An avid and voracious consumer of culture: literature, comics, music, games, music.
- Experience writing for various websites on topics ranging from Sake making to Japanese SF.
- Certified Sake Navigator