

PROFESSOR JÓRIO MAIA'S INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDRE REIS

- Which was the shorthand speed you had more difficulty to overcome? And how did you overcome it?

Certainly, the speed of 110 wpm was the most difficult one to overcome. I think it was only possible to overcome this speed because of many months of persistent training at such speed.

- What about reading the signs, what difficulties did you face? And how did you overcome them?

At the very beginning of the learning, I found some difficulties in translating the outlines I was writing. This happened because I was not accurately following professor Waldir Cury's guidelines, who said that everything that had been written in shorthand had to be translated afterwards. After awhile, I started translating everything I wrote and soon I overcame these difficulties.

- What kind of "tactics" did you use to assimilate the special prefixes and suffixes?

The tactics I used to assimilate these signs was repetition. In the Maron system's learning workbooks, I found many words related to each prefix and suffix. I started to train those words every day.

- What kind of "tactics" did you use to assimilate the brief forms?

To memorize the brief forms I used the same tactics of prefixes and suffixes: daily repetition.

- In any stage of your study, did you feel discouraged and wanted to quit? If so, what made you continue?

Many times I felt discouraged, but I never thought of quitting. Typically, this discouragement used to happen when I was not able to accurately write in shorthand the dictations at the speed that I believed I was in and I had to go back and train again at a lower speed.

- What part of the method learning did you find most difficult? What lesson?

To memorize brief forms (abbreviations). This phase requires great patience from the student.

- Tell us a little more about "repetition" aiming at assimilation. How did you use to use repetition? How many times did you repeat a hard-to-trace word? Did you repeat the same word many times over several days?

I have no doubt that repetition is one of the most important factors to develop the technique. Until an advanced stage of my training (maybe 8 months) I did not use much of the repetition of the dictations and words. It was when I spoke to professor Cury and he suggested that I repeat the same dictation and hard-to-trace words many times. From the moment that I changed my training process, I felt a huge improvement.

- How did you use to train each dictation? Did you first train the hard-to-trace words? Did you first produce a shorthand copy of the text, before training the dictation? How often did you train each dictation?

Until a certain stage of my study, I used to train two or three dictations per day. When I finished writing in shorthand and translated these dictations, I began to train the hard-to-trace words. Then I started to use another approach. Every Monday I wrote in shorthand and translated 3 brand new dictations. At the end of the translation I noted the words whose signs I had difficulty in writing in shorthand. In the 6 following days I always did the same thing: I started studying the hard-to-trace words related to each dictation (trained 10 times each word) and right after, I did the dictation and translated. I never did a shorthand copy, but I think I'm going to start doing it now...

- Please summarize, in few words, the qualities that a good student of shorthand should have.

I believe persistence and discipline are the key qualities of a good shorthand student.