

# Grey Drane

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## Introduction

This brief chronology of my life thus far will help the reader to understand what has made me, **Grey A. Drane**, the person I am today and, consequently, why I would make an excellent addition to your **copy writing** or **translating** team.

## Education

High School & The Big Decision – 1981-1985

Born and raised in northern California, my first two years of high school were at Mercy High, in Red Bluff, before moving to Gooding, Idaho, with my family. By my senior year in Gooding, it was time for **the Big Decision**: what to do after high school?! As a 17-year-old boy, my first instinct was to turn my childhood passions for **space**, **speculative fiction** and **science & technology** into a career in **aerospace engineering** and possibly to become an **astronaut**. I had even obtained congressional nomination to apply to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. I ended up deciding that military life wasn't for me, but I still wonder what if...?

American River Community College; Sacramento, CA – 1986-1987

I finished my senior year of high school back in Chico, CA, in order to regain residency in California so that university there would be less expensive. I went to community college after finishing high school, initially with the intention of studying **Psychology**, but soon settling on **Accounting** and **Business Administration**, because I saw this as the more practical path to future financial security.

California State University, Sacramento; Sacramento, CA – BS in Business Administration (Finance concentration), 1988-1991

After two years at American River, I transferred to Sac State to continue pursuing a degree in **Business Administration**, but now with a **Finance** concentration, because I felt this was a better fit with my propensity for looking to the **future**, rather than recording the past. As I continued my studies, some of the coursework that I enjoyed the most included **Business Communication**, **Marketing**, **Statistics** and **Forecasting**.

## Experience

Electronic Data Systems (EDS) Corp.; Rancho Cordova, CA – 1987-1989

My first real job—after bagging groceries, flipping burgers and delivering pizza—was with EDS in their Student Loan Processing Center. I began in the **call center** and quickly earned the honor of testing and working with one of their earliest **auto-dailer computers**, which they had just begun developing in-house in order to more efficiently **contact borrowers** with difficulties in paying back their loans. My skill with computers eventually led to me being transferred to the **accounting** office, where I helped **develop and use database applications**, which were used to track various financial activities.

Diepenbrock, Wulff, Plant & Hannegan (DWP&H); Sacramento, CA – 1989-1991

Once my time at EDS had run its course, I decided to do some temp work in order to get a job that was more specifically related to my studies. This led me to a leading law firm, DWP&H, where, after a period of temping, I was hired in the **accounting office** under the firm's controller. At first, this mainly involved **data entry** for the billing of the firm's clients, but I was soon also given responsibilities related to **accounts receivable**, **accounts payable** and **petty cash**.

Talia S.r.l.; Valdagno (Vicenza), Italy – 1991-1992

I moved to Italy immediately after graduation, and my first paid job there was with a company that developed **color-matching software** for the **textile and leather industries**. Here, I did some basic **programming** in Visual Basic and Fortran and helped the company to **translate their software** into English. I also **travelled** frequently around **Italy** and to **Spain** in order to **install software** and perform **hardware and software maintenance** for customers.

GL:OBE School of Languages; Cornedo Vicentino (Vicenza), Italy – 1992-2001

I soon co-founded a **language-training** business, **teaching English** and other European languages primarily to adults for **business** and career purposes and for **lifelong learning** in general. As a part of **running the business**, I taught English, maintained and **developed the company's web site**, wrote **marketing copy**, did **financial analysis** and **budgeting**, and **selected and supervised** the other language trainers.

Drane.it (Freelance Translator); Valdagno (Vicenza), Italy – 2001-2015

Eventually, we sold the language school, and I decided to become a **freelance translator**, specializing in finance, accounting and business administration, as I saw this as the best way to take advantage of my education and my language and writing skills. As my career progressed, I also worked a great deal in the field of **marketing**, including both **content writing** and **copy writing**. Other fields of interest included **information technology** and **energy**, as well as translating a bit of **fiction**. In addition, I found that I was particularly good at **editing** the work of others as well as at conducting **online research**.

**Patterns of meaning** Right from the early days of the **Internet**, I've been fascinated by the sort of global-scale **social interaction** it makes possible. I've witnessed and participated in the rise and fall of many **social platforms** and **technologies** over the years and am intrigued by the **dynamics of online discussion** and debate. I marvel in the **patterns in complex systems** and in the **impact of language** on communities of all sizes. Fields of study I enjoy include **sociology**, **sociolinguistics** and **semiotics**, along with a dash of **philosophy** to help tie it all together.

**What's next...** Given my **business education**, my skill and **passion for Big Data and technology**, and my experience and talent working with **language and writing**—including as it relates to **marketing** and **community building**—I know I would especially enjoy a career that involved **market analysis** and consequent *data-driven* **copy writing** and **editing**.

**References** Available upon request.