

# Information | Communication | Translation



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# Inter-Professional Working as Inter-Cultural Contact

- “You guys just talk Klingon!”
- “it’s a meeting between the tribes”
- “If only we spoke the same language”
- “It’s a different world view”
- “Those guys are from another planet”
- ....

# Information Sharing as Language Contact

- Linguistic Imperialism
- Borrowings
- Convergence
- Bilingualism and code switching
- Pidgin and Creoles
- Lingua Franca
- Perfect Languages (revealed)
- Perfect Languages (constructed)
- (Professional) Translation



The distribution of responsibility for translation

‘Thus a human being performs an act of translation, in the full sense of the word, when receiving a speech message from any other human being. Time, distance, disparities in outlook or assumed reference make this act more or less difficult. Where the difficulty is great enough, the process passes from reflex to conscious technique’  
(Steiner, 1992: 48).

# Three paradigms

- Information (sharing)
  - The movement of predefined meaning
  - x1
- Conversation (analysis)
  - The co-construction of meaning
  - x2
- Translation (and “Interpretation”)
  - The translator as traitor
  - Translation as negotiation
  - The Instrumental-Hermeneutic tension
  - x3?

‘Some translation theories have assumed an instrumental concept of language as communication, expressive of thought and meaning, where meanings are either based on reference to an empirical reality or derived from a context that is primarily linguistic, but may also encompass a pragmatic situation. Other theories have assumed a hermeneutic concept of language as interpretation, constitutive of thought and meaning, where meanings shape reality and are inscribed according to changing cultural and social situations’ (Venuti, 2004: 6).

# Your Task

- Open your envelope
  - Your message is in the larger font above the line
  - You also have some information which is useful for other people (smaller font below the line)
- Can you translate your message?
- Did you need help?
- Did you find help?

# Some Questions

- How much information is actually lost in translation?
- How should we distribute responsibility for translation?
- What kind of translation – instrumental or hermeneutic – is required in what kind of situation?
- How can we capture and correct mistranslations?

‘travellers, scientists and merchants (those who needed a common language) were always a minority in the mass of common citizens who were content to remain at home speaking their native tongues. Just because this minority of travellers required a common language, it did not follow that the majority of sedentary citizens needed one too. It was the traveller who needed to understand the natives; the natives had no particular need to understand the traveller, who, indeed, had the advantage over them of being able to conceal his thoughts’

Joseph-Marie Degérando, writing in the late nineteenth century, summarised in Eco (1997: 339).

Thank You  
Merci  
Danke  
etc.

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