

COURSE TITLE: A Linguistic Approach to Literary Translation

Instructor: Nadina Visan

Summary of course content:

The present course addresses some crucial issues related to *literary translation*, such as 'equivalence', 'compensation', 'domestication/foreignization', etc. Students will study the works of relevant theorists and translators and then they will apply through translation most of the concepts studied in class. In this respect, each theoretical issue is doubled by a set of applications. The texts offered for translation are meant to pose two-fold problems: textual ones (morpho-syntactic, pragmastylistic aspects) and interlingual ones (intercultural aspects).

Learning objectives:

The main objective of this set of lectures consists in offering students an insight into the theoretical framework on translation. By the end of this course, students are supposed to be in possession of a toolkit with key concepts which they will be able to put to good use in their own translation endeavours.

Topics:

1. Equivalence in translation (starting point: dynamic equivalence/ formal correspondence - Nida, 1964. Applications: Iris Murdoch - *The Sandcastle*, J.K.Rowling - *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*)
2. Types of literary translation (the classification offered by Bassnett, 2002. Applications: Helen Fielding - *Bridget Jones's Diary*; Margaret Edson - *Wit*)
3. Translation loss and gain; untranslatability (starting point: compensation - Hervey & Higgins, 1992. Applications: Anthony Burgess - *A Clockwork Orange*, Malcolm Bradbury - *Cuts*; excerpts from the script of *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* by Guy Ritchie)
4. Linguistic approaches to translation (starting point: grammatical deficiency, Jakobson, 1959. Applications: Graham Swift - *Waterworld*; James Ellroy - *The L.A. Novels*; Harold Pinter - *The Homecoming, A Night Out*)
5. Translation and culture (starting point: foreignization/ domestication, Venuti, 1995. Applications: Rose Tremain - *Restoration*, Julian Barnes - *Flaubert's Parrot*, Jonathan Safran Foer - *Everything's Illuminated*)

6. An Analytic of Literary Translation (starting point: Berman, 1984. Applications: Salman Rushdie – *Midnight Children*; Peter Ackroyd – *Hawksmoor*)

Requirements: 50% attendance + final paper

Bibliography:

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Jakobson, Roman (1959) 'On Linguistic Aspects of Translation', in R. A. Brower (ed.) *On Translation*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 232-39.

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Nida, Eugene A. and C.R. Taber (1969 / 1982) *The Theory and Practice of Translation*, Leiden: E. J. Brill.

Venuti, Lawrence (1995) *The Translator's Invisibility*. Routledge

Vinay, J.P. and J. Darbelnet (1995) *Comparative Stylistics of French and English: a Methodology for Translation*, translated by J. C. Sager and M. J. Hamel, Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins.