

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

*University of London*

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

*For the following qualifications:-*

*M.A.*

**M.A. Comparative Literature: Translation Studies (take home paper)**

**COURSE CODE : CLIT0002**

**DATE : To be collected from 10.00 on 28 May 2003 and  
returned by 17.00 on 30 May 2003**

# Translation Studies Take Home Paper 2002-03

*Collection Date: Collect 28 May 2003 from 10 am onwards (Foster Court, Room 316)  
Submit 30 May 2003 by 5 pm (Foster Court, Room 316)*

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Answer **TWO** questions, beginning each answer in a fresh answer book. Answers should not be more than approximately 2,000 words. Footnotes and bibliographies are not required.

Do not base more than one answer in this or any other assessed piece of work on substantially the same material.

Feel free to illustrate your discussion of theoretical issues with reference to specific literary texts.

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1

To what extent could Saint Jerome's Letter 57, 'On the Best Kind of Translation', be regarded as marking the conflation of Classical and Christian views of translation?

2

How typical of Renaissance approaches to translation is Etienne Dolet's 1540 treatise on 'The Best Way to Translate from One Language into Another'?

3

Summarize the main features of a Neo-Classical concept of translation and discuss some of their practical consequences.

4

To what extent can Friedrich Schleiermacher's 1813 speech 'On the Different Methods of Translating' be regarded as embodying a Romantic concept of translation?

5

Assess the significance of Walter Benjamin's 1923 essay 'The Task of the Translator' in the context of translation theory from the Romantics to the present day.

6

'Jacques Derrida's 1985 essay "Des tours de Babel" is both a critique of modern theories of translation and a theory of translation in its own right.' Discuss.

7

What is the relevance of gender to issues of translation?

**TURN OVER**

8

'Postcolonial theory is not interested in translations as such but only in the uses made of them.' Discuss.

9

'No one can doubt that the translation of a text, however much the translator may have felt himself into his author, cannot simply be a re-awakening of the original event in the mind of the writer, but a recreation of the text that is guided by the way the translator understands what is said in it. No one can doubt that we are dealing here with interpretation and not simply with reproduction.' (Hans-Georg Gadamer). In the light of this statement, discuss the role and the possible limits of interpretation in the context of translation.

10

'It is difficult to generalize about literary translation because the key concept of equivalence contains so many different and contradictory meanings.' (R.A. Adams). Discuss.

11

'Translation is a process peculiarly generative of experimental writing: experimentation with self as much as with known forms and styles, or as with unknown forms, styles and modes of graphic (and electronic) presentation.' (Clive Scott). In what way does translation invite or restrict experimentation both with 'self' and with form, style and expression?

12

To what extent is translating theatre and/or multimedia texts different from translating other types of text?

13

'Every translation invents its own original and, conversely, every original is already a translation.' Discuss.

14

'Translation, like all understanding, is inevitably ethnocentric.' Discuss.

15

How far can the study of translation contribute to literary theory?

16

What is meant by the claim that translators continually find themselves 'in between' languages and cultures?

**CONTINUED**

17

What does translation theory have to offer the practising translator?

18

'Translating has taught me that it is ultimately impossible to transcribe one cultural identity into another' (Rosario Ferré). Discuss, either in general terms or with reference to particular literatures and cultures.

19

Discuss problems of translation in terms of the diversity of BOTH types of texts AND types of languages.

20

Discuss the relevance of A.L. Becker's 'modern philology' for theories of translation.

21

'Translation is the wrong word for something that doesn't actually exist' ('Übersetzung ist das falsche Wort für etwas, das es eigentlich nicht gibt') (Oskar Pastior). Discuss.

22

'If what the reader is offered, both originally and in translation, is in Lévi-Strauss's sense a myth, a fictional resolution of an experiential contradiction, then not only will there be several ways of resolving these contradictions within each culture but the degree of success of such resolution will also differ, as the experience and expectation of each readership develops'. Discuss.

23

With reference to the translation of any genre of popular fiction, discuss the factors affecting decisions by editors and translators regarding what to retain and what to exclude from the target text.

**END OF PAPER**