

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

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Translation Studies Take Home Paper 2004-05

*Collection Date: Collect 31 May 2005 from 10 am onwards (Foster Court, Room 316)
Submit 2 June 2005 by 5 pm (Foster Court, Room 316)*

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 SUBSTANTIALLY BASE MORE THAN ONE ANSWER IN THIS OR ANY OTHER ASSESSED PIECE OF WORK ON THE SAME MATERIAL.

1. It is often assumed that when we translate, something remains 'invariant under transformation.' Write a critical assessment of the rationale and usefulness of this notion of an 'invariant.'
2. 'Although the concept of norms would appear to be a useful tool to explain the decision-making of translators, it is too vast and imprecise to be of much practical value'. Discuss.
3. Consider Saint Jerome's views on translation in the context of both Classical and Christian ideas of language, rhetoric and the transmission of culture.
4. Assess Etienne Dolet's 1540 treatise on translation as a Renaissance document.
5. EITHER (a) How does Dryden's translation theory intersect with political or religious issues of the time?
OR (b) 'Dryden is best thought of as an advocate of free translation'. Discuss.
6. Compare and contrast Tytler and Schleiermacher on translation.
7. 'For Walter Benjamin, to translate is to realize what is only potential in the original'. Discuss.
8. What, in your view, has Jacques Derrida contributed to our thinking on translation?
9. How have gender studies affected the study and the practice of translation?
10. 'From a postcolonial perspective, understanding translation means living by its central metaphor of displacement'. Discuss.
11. What role does translation play in the construction of national identity? Please provide specific examples to support your argument.
12. 'Translation from a major language into a minor one is very different from translating in the opposite direction.' Discuss.
13. EITHER (a) The concept of 'equivalence' has been discussed and established by various theorists of interlingual translation. How satisfying are these insights when applied to the phenomenon of intersemiotic translation? Illustrate your answer with reference to at least one example of intersemiotic translation.

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OR (b) Show how the translation of one or more multimodal texts of your choice can help to illuminate the similarities and differences between Jakobson's three kinds of translation: intralingual, interlingual and intersemiotic.

14. EITHER (a) To what extent would you say modern technology has changed not only the routines of translating but also our thinking about translation?

OR (b) 'Localization and multimedia translation, like all intersemiotic translation, is more a question of adaptation than of translation.' Discuss.

15. EITHER (a) Consider to what extent the translation of sacred texts is different from the translation of other kinds of text.

OR (b) Consider to what extent the translation of poetry poses problems not posed by other kinds of literature.

OR (c) Discuss both lexico-grammatical and phonological obstacles to translation.

16. EITHER (a) 'The value of myth as myth survives, despite the worst translation. The substance of myth lies neither in its style nor in its mode of narration, nor its syntax, but in the story that is told'. In the light of this statement, discuss the freedoms and constraints in translating popular fiction.

OR (b) To what extent are the problems encountered in the translation of popular fiction different from those met in translating any other type of prose fiction?

17. EITHER (a) 'When it is not translated, Latin American literature remains invisible'. Discuss.

OR (b) The reception of international literature in translation in Latin America undermines the validity of a national literature'. Discuss.

18. 'Literal meanings are package commodities for passive consumers' (Norman O. Brown). Discuss this statement with reference to the notion of equivalence.

19. Discuss, with specific examples, what you understand to be the differences between translation and glossing.

20. 'The translator is caught in the middle between two demands that seem almost impossible to reconcile. On one side the author calls out to him: "Show respect for my property, don't take anything away from me, but don't attribute anything to me that is not mine". On the other side the audience requires: "Respect our taste, bring us only what we like and in the form we like it"' (G. Weck, 1867). Consider the ethics of translation in the light of this statement.

21. 'Every generation needs its own translations of the classics, but original works transcend the ages'. Discuss.

22. EITHER (a) What can the history of translation and/or of translation theory teach the practising translator?

OR (b) 'Translators are often impatient with theory, and for good reason.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER