

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

University of London

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

For The Following Qualification:–

*M.A.*

**M.A. Comparative Literature : Translation Studies Take home**

**COURSE CODE : CLIT0002**

**COLLECT : 30-MAY-06, from 10am**

**RETURN : 01-JUN-06, by 5pm**

# Translation Studies Take Home Paper 2005-06

*Collection Date: Collect 30 May 2006 from 10 am onwards (Foster Court, Room 316)*

*Submit 1 June 2006 by 5 pm (Foster Court, Room 316)*

## Instructions on how to submit your paper

**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. Either (a) Discuss the tensions between the impulses of the source text and the constraints of the target culture in the process of producing translations of popular fiction.

Or (b) 'What serves as a bridge from soul to soul is not the unique, but the common' (Leon Trotsky). To what extent does this statement help us to understand the problems of translating popular fiction?

2. 'Translation is a species of the genus interpretation' (Umberto Eco). In your opinion, can we gain a better understanding of interlingual translation by analysing it as part of a continuum of interpretive and communicative activities?

3. 'Modern translation tasks cut across traditional interlingual, intralingual and intersemiotic categories. [...] Multidimensional language competencies are required to meet modern multilingual communication challenges in an enlarging Europe' (European Commission training manual). Explain why EU enlargement and advances in communication technology necessitate a reconsideration of translation practice and theory in the context of the EU.

4. Discuss how the social context may influence the act of translation. Please provide specific examples.

5. Discuss the different roles translation plays in movements between major and minor cultures.

6. Translation is sometimes described as a process that preserves invariance under transformation. Discuss.

7. Conventions and norms may help us to understand translation in a general way but they are of limited use when we want to study actual translations. Discuss.

8. What can gender studies contribute to the study of translation?

9. What can stylistics contribute to the study of translation?

10. Since no two cultures are incommensurable, all cultures are, in principle, translatable. Discuss.

11. "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, 1876). Discuss.

12. "One naturally wonders if the problem of translation could conceivably be treated as a problem in cryptography. When I look at an article in Russian, I say: This is really written in English, but it has been coded in some strange symbols. I will now proceed to decode" (Warren Weaver, 1955). To what extent can translation be seen as a process of decoding and recoding?

**TURN OVER**

13. "Nationalism, cultural or political, is no more than an inverted image of the colonialism it seeks to replace. It too is an act of translation or even of retranslation. The assumption it shares with colonialism is the existence of an original condition that must be transmitted, restored, recuperated, and which must replace that fallen condition which at present obtains" (Seamus Deane, 1991). Discuss.

14. Western translation theories have been predicated on translatability and preoccupied with equivalence due to the fact that Western Christianity reads its foundational text, the Bible, in translation. Discuss.

15. Consider the relevance of both Classical and Christian contexts for Jerome's views on translation.

16. To what extent is Etienne Dolet's treatise 'The Way to Translate Well from One Language into Another' representative of Renaissance views of translation?

17. Compare Dryden's views on translation with those of figures such as John Denham, Nicolas Perrot d'Abiancourt and Alexander Fraser Tytler.

18. Consider Schleiermacher's lecture 'On the Different Ways of Translating' as a typically Romantic document and the first modern theory of translation.

19. Why has Walter Benjamin's essay 'the Task of the Translator' attracted so much critical interest?

20. To what extent would you say that Jacques Derrida offers us not only a critique of theories of translation but also a theory of translation?

**END OF PAPER**