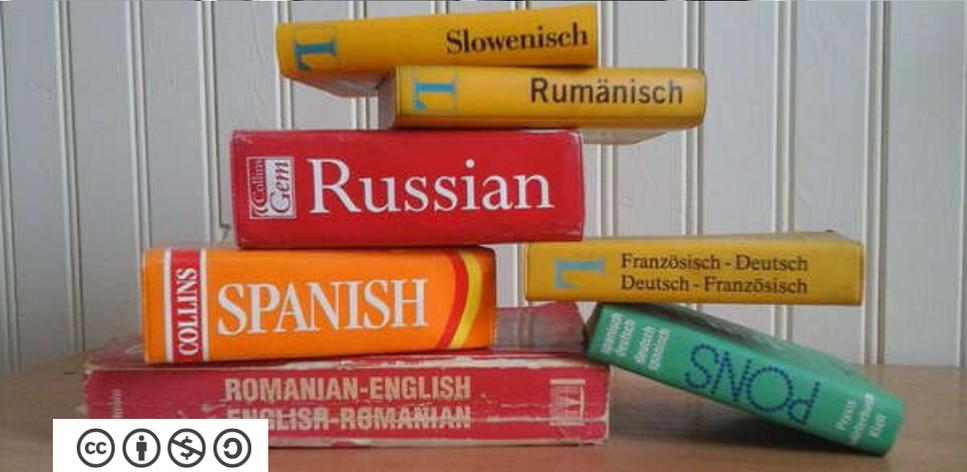




Time to rethink translation?



Sue Wood

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Overview

- **Personal experience of translation**
- **Why translation?**
- **Translation tools**
- **Bad examples**
- **Challenges**
- **Strategies**

Personal experience of translation



Work in groups and discuss your experience of translation:

- **at school**
- **as an adult learner**
- **as a teacher**

Agree or disagree??



- Translation is bad and should not be encouraged
- Students will inevitably use translation
- Beliefs about translation are cultural
- Translation is a good way of testing students
- Translation is easy
- Monolingual classrooms are the easiest environment to teach translation
- Mother-tongue English teachers are at a disadvantage

Expert opinion

There is a general feeling that first language translations should not be used in the teaching and testing of vocabulary. This attitude is quite wrong. Translation is one of a number of ways of conveying meaning....

I.S.P. Nation

Translation has the advantage of being the most direct route to a word's meaning.....

....over-reliance on translation may mean that learners fail to develop an independent L2 lexicon.

S. Thornbury

Disadvantages of translation

- L1 is the main language in the classroom
- Not enough emphasis on L2
- Assumption that translations are perfect
- Increased processing time delays communication
- Language acquisition is delayed

Various sources

Advantages of translation

- Strengthens understanding of both languages
- Learners can relate to similarities between the languages (but beware false friends!)
- Maintains linguistic and cultural identities (Guy Cook)
- Offers a different type of classroom task
- Enables students to question translation tools

Translation tools?

Google Translate

Are improving, but...

Original text:

Scientists found optimists who believe their life has a meaning **walk** faster, **suffer** less pain as they age and **have stronger grips**.

Translated to German and back to English :

Scientists have found optimists who believe their lives are meaningful, **run** faster, **have** less pain with age and **are more effective**.

www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6565563/Is-key-happiness-married.html

When things go
wrong!



Please leave your values at the front desk (A Paris elevator)

Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m. daily. (An Athens Hotel)

You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.(A Japanese hotel)

Our wines leave you nothing to hope for. (Swiss restaurant)

Drop your trousers here for best results. (Bangkok Dry cleaner's)

Dresses for street walking. (Paris dress shop)

Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose. (Zürich hotel)

<http://www.jnweb.com/funny/translation.html>

Context is
everything

administer

stunt

row

try

run

just

present

Useful websites

Just the word

administer

****administer** obj N**

cluster 1

administer questionnaire (16) 

administer test (20) 

cluster 2

administer scheme (25) 

administer system (18) 

cluster 3

administer aid (18) 

administer service (20) 

unclustered

administer affair (15) 

administer dose (12) 

administer drug (34) 

administer the fund (11) 

administer justice (15) 

administer the law (11) 

administer oath (11) 

****administer** PREP**

administer by (331) 

administer (sth.) verb (administered, administered)

etw. ^{Adv} verwalten  

The new system can administer vast amounts of data.

Das neue System kann riesige Datenmengen verwalten.

verabreichen  

It is important to administer these drugs daily for four weeks.

Es ist wichtig, diese Medikamente über vier Wochen täglich zu verabreichen.

The drug is administered as an injection.

Das Medikament wird als Injektion verabreicht.

etw. ^{Adv} organisieren  

With the new system we can administer documents more efficiently.

Mit dem neuen System können wir Dokumente effizienter organisieren.

less common:

geben   · etw. ^{Adv} führen   · etw. ^{Adv} regeln   · etw. ^{Adv} spenden  

etw. ^{Adv} administrieren   · etw. ^{Adv} wahrnehmen *v (Rechte, Aufgaben)*  

etw. ^{Adv} anwenden   · etw. ^{Adv} regulieren  · handhaben   · bewirtschaften  

verabfolgen  · darreichen  · applizieren  · etw. ^{Adv} vollziehen   · gewähren  

etw. ^{Adv} erteilen   · etw. ^{Adv} vollstrecken   · etw. ^{Adv} verhängen  

Examples:

administer justice  — Recht sprechen  · judizieren 

administer an estate  — einen Nachlass verwalten 

administer accounts  — Konten führen 

⌂

Things to think about



Context is everything

Translate meaning not individual words

Awareness of grammar and multiple meanings

Teach dictionary skills

Be careful of idioms

Which direction is most helpful?

Which level makes most sense?

Be prepared!!

Use in the classroom

Some ideas:

- Groups work on different parts of a text
- Peer correction
- Learners translate a text, then give translation to another group. Compare with the original.
- What went wrong?
- Subtitles for films
- Compare versions of translated songs /poems
- Summarise a text
- Translate in different styles

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