



翻译理论与实践

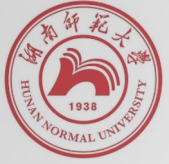


April 11, 2024

Prof. Dr. Martin Woesler and Prof. Dr. Ole Doering

(单1-15. 外国语学院大楼 401

教室 09163071.01)



Introduction

Individuated Relational Positions: Social Singulars

个性化关系立场. 社会奇异





1 Sharing Horizons of Order: Language



Languages originate in a double confusion (and the need to establish order):

- 1 Hubris: to not know human limits.
- 2 Expression: language makes understanding and misunderstanding. It shows, who we are and who we want to be.

The Tower of Babel is an origin myth (in *Genesis* 11:1–9). According to the story, a united humanity, in the generations following the Great Flood, speaking a single language and migrating eastward, comes to the land of Shinar (שִׁנְעָר). There they agree to build a city and a tower tall enough „to reach Heaven“. God, observing their city and tower, confounds their speech so that they can no longer understand each other, and scatters them around the world.

Trying „to reach God“, makes us speechless - no words or common standards.

An Argument About Translation

Frenchman: Languages would be classified according to their ability to translate. I must protest against this in the name of my own language.

The criterion is narrowly national in nature because the Germans translate every literary Tom, Dick, and Harry.

We either do not translate at all, or else we translate according to our own taste.

German: Which is to say, you paraphrase and you disguise.

Frenchman: We look on a foreign author as a stranger in our midst. He has to dress according to our customs, and behave accordingly, if he aims to please.

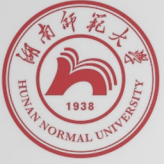
German: How narrow-minded of you to be pleased only by what is native.

Frenchman: Such is our nature and education. Did the Greeks not Hellenize all things too?

German: In your case it goes back to a narrow-minded nature and a conventional education. In our case education is our nature.

August Wilhelm Schlegel, 1767–1845. German critic, translator, and literary historian. Extract from “Wettstreit der Sprachen” (“Argument Between Languages”), published in 1798. (From: Bassnett, S. and A. Lefevere. (1992).

Translation/History/Culture: A Sourcebook. London and New York: Routledge: 78)



Languages in the World Today



Who can tell? Ethnologists estimate 6,900 - Linguists estimate 6,800.
Does it matter?

LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD

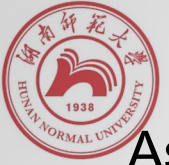


Living Languages of the World



<https://1howmany.com/how-many-languages-in-the-world>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/02/how-some-endangered-languages-thrive/>



1 Sharing Horizons of Order: Communication

As humans, we naturally depend on communication and translation.

How many languages are there and should there be limits?

What is language: a structured horizon of meaning, build from human (life and social) experience and reflection (Erlebnis, Erfahrung), in traditions of cultural development, as a social expression.

Expression must connect and align a plurality.

Comparative studies are the gateway to the path of Hermeneutics: the art and science of understanding.

Gadamer's (1900 – 2002) response:
„Merging Horizons“ - transcending world unity





2 Translation Requires Full Humanity

Language is defined as

1 the principal **method** of human communication, consisting of words used in a structured and conventional way and conveyed by speech, writing, or gesture (verbal and non-verbal);

or

2 a **system** of communication used by a particular country or community.



Humans as translators are not machines and they are better: Language is in the structure and genesis of communication, in „our genes“.



Language, Translation, Culture

„Language is by operative definition a shared code of exchange“. (Steiner 154)

„Novalis’s celebrated definition of the translator as ‘the poet of poetry’“. (Steiner 316)

Translation means „to produce the text which the foreign poet would have written had been composing in one’s own tongue.“ (Dryden, according to Steiner 312)

Culture: „Defined ‘topologically,’ a culture is a sequence of translations and transformations of constants (‘translation’ always tends towards ,transformation’).“ (Steiner 397)





Language, Translation, Culture

Practice (Wittgenstein): „the meaning of a word is its use in the language.“

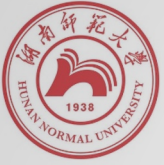
It hinges on the assumption that language is a social and expressive function, which includes the possibility of correction (by another person or else).

„**The use of language is the use of a system of rules.**“

These rules must be consistent if the propositions which they inform are to have meaning.

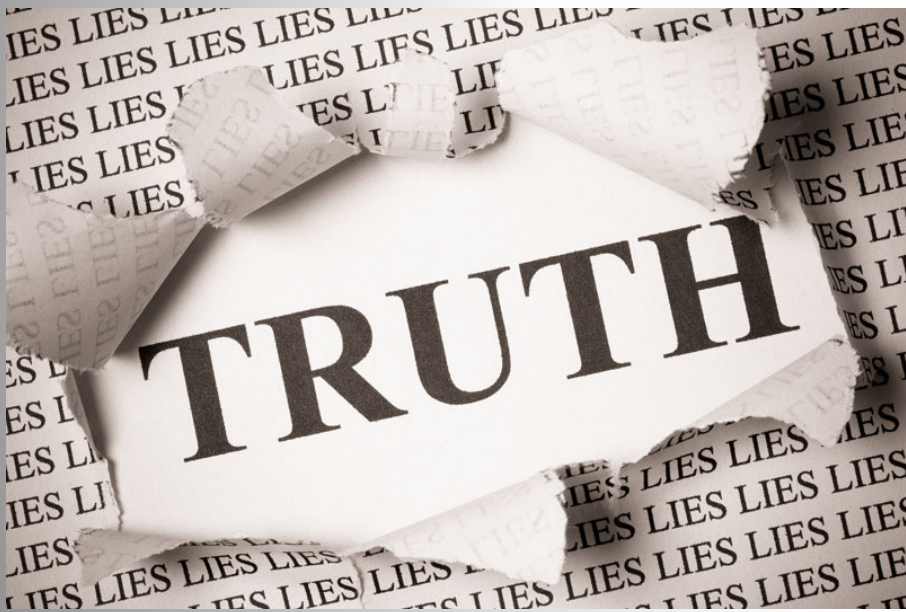
Why can Steiner claim that his is **not** a „theory of translation“? (6)





Discussion

What is the role and function of „truth“ and „meaning“ in the cultural processes of transformation (interpretation, translation, learning)?





Homework

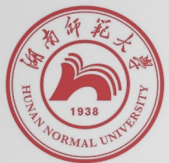
Read Mark Twain's Essay, on the Awful German Language (PDF).

What kind of text (genre) is this? (Prepare notes for oral answer.)

What does Twain tell us about the relationship between English and German? (Prepare notes for oral answer.)

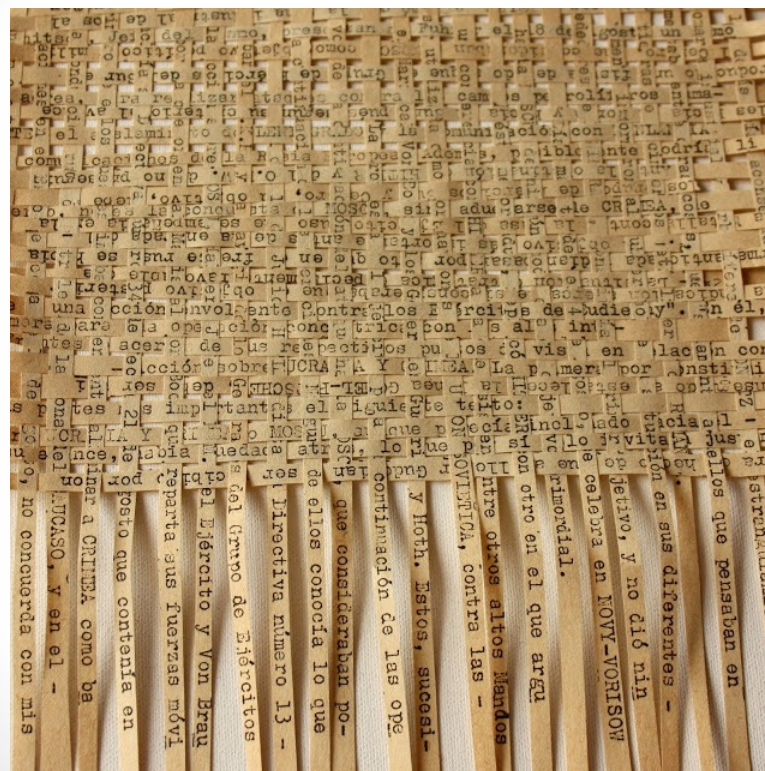


The Awful German Language | Mark Twain



Always here for you!

随时为你们服务



See you next time!

Professor Dr. Ole Döring

Email / 电子邮件: oledoering@googlemail.com





翻译理论与实践



Prof. Dr. Martin Woesler and Prof. Dr. Ole Doering

April 25, 2024

(单1-15. 外国语学院大楼 401

教室 09163071.01)



Introductions

Socially acquired cultural rules.
Combined Natural, Sign and Body Languages.
Exposition, negotiation and navigation of spaces – distance, contact, attention.
Strategies for confrontation, embarrassment, humor.
Reflection of expectation and perception.





„Western“ Approaches

Practice (Wittgenstein): „the meaning of a word is its use in the language.“

It hinges on the assumption that language is a social and expressive function, which includes the possibility of correction (by another person or else).

„The use of language is the use of a system of rules.“

These rules must be consistent if the propositions which they inform are to have meaning.





What is „is the use of a system of rules“

What are rules?

What is a system (of rules)?

What are language rules?

Who makes rules?

How are rules being made?

Why can rules change?

Difference between language rules and writing rules: impact.





What is „is the use of a system of rules“

What are rules? Descriptions of regularities in practice.

What is a system (of rules)? Infrastructure (of rules) expressing effectivity and efficiency of meaning, regularity ensured by an organizational structure (grammar).

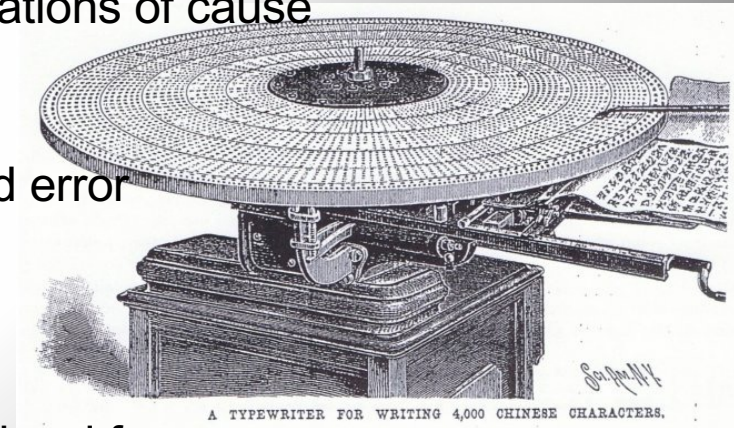
What are language rules? Descriptions of regularities in a language.

Who makes rules? Humans make rules, as a result from observations of cause and effect – what works (concerning understanding)

How are rules being made? Learning (to understand) by trial and error

Why can rules change? Learning from experience.

Difference between language rules and writing rules: symbolic visual forms.





Language(s) Make(s) the World

Grammar generates „if’s“ potential: structure for guidance.

Are we just making it up, or, expressing insight? What is the reality base?

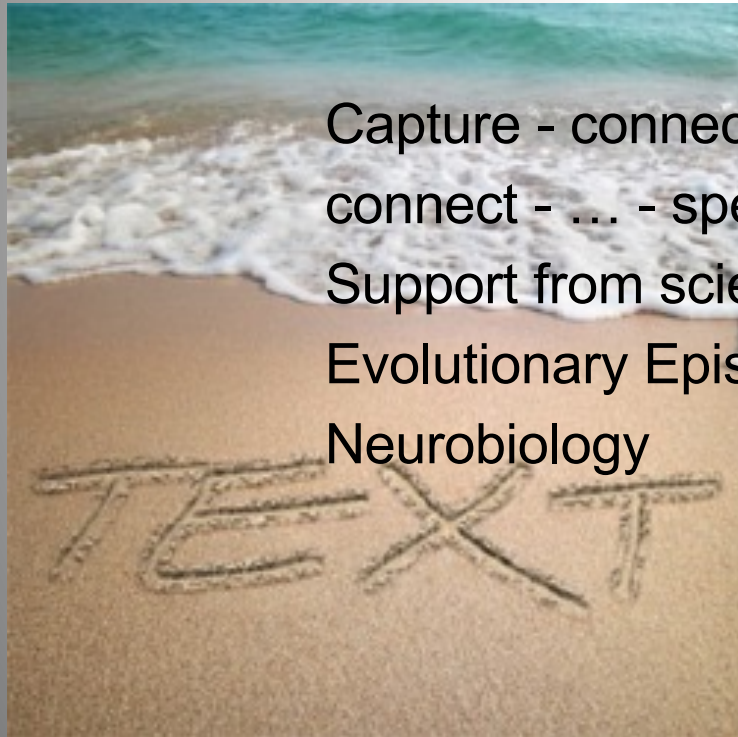
Something to hold on to, focus our attention, help us move on...

Capture - connect - capture -
connect - ... - speak and grow

Support from science:

Evolutionary Epistemology

Neurobiology





„Speech - Act“ - Social Unity of Language. Theory of Practice, Practice of Theory

Philosophy of language and linguistics: A speech act is expressed, so that it presents information AND performs an action.

For example, the phrase "I would like the apple; could you please pass it to me?" expresses the speaker's desire to get the apple, and presents a request that someone pass the apple to them.

We learn more about the speaker than plain information, assumptions about relations or facts, in an ambiguous manner.

In a speech act several acts are performed at once.

They can be distinguished by different aspects of the speaker's intention: there is the act of saying something, what one does in saying it, such as requesting or promising, and how one is trying to affect one's audience“.

Speech acts include acts such as apologizing, promising, ordering, answering, requesting, complaining, warning, inviting, refusing...



Experiment: AI Translation

Methodical disambiguation by language tri-angulation (of culture affine and distant languages) Triangular Translation, Exercise 1, normative sensitivity.

Translator	Original German	English 1	Chinese 1	English 2	German 2
Mars MT	<p>Für die Richtigkeit der Übersetzung durch diesen Dienst sowie für mögliche Folgen aus Übersetzungsfehlern oder Interpretationen übernimmt unsere Firma keinerlei Haftung.</p> <p>Wer garantiert dann für die Zuverlässigkeit der Übersetzung?</p>	<p>Our company assumes no liability whatsoever for the correctness of the translation by this service or for any consequences resulting from translation errors or interpretations.</p> <p>Who then guarantees the reliability of the translation?</p>	<p>本公司对本服务翻译的正确性或翻译错误或解释造成的任何后果不承担一切责任。</p> <p>谁来保证翻译的可靠性?</p>	<p>The Company assumes no responsibility for the correctness of the translation of the Service or for any consequences resulting from translation errors or interpretations.</p> <p>Who can guarantee the reliability of translation?</p>	<p>Das Unternehmen ist nicht verantwortlich für die Richtigkeit der vom Service bereitgestellten Übersetzungen oder für Folgen, die sich aus Übersetzungsfehlern oder Interpretationen ergeben.</p> <p>Wer garantiert die Zuverlässigkeit der Übersetzungen?</p>
Microsoft Bing	<p>Für die Richtigkeit der Übersetzung durch diesen Dienst sowie für mögliche Folgen aus Übersetzungsfehlern oder Interpretationen übernimmt unsere Firma keinerlei Haftung.</p> <p>Wer garantiert dann für die Zuverlässigkeit der Übersetzung?</p>	<p>Our company assumes no liability for the accuracy of the translation by this service or for the possible consequences of translation errors or interpretations.</p> <p>Who then guarantees the reliability of the translation?</p>	<p>本公司对本服务所提供翻译的准确性或因翻译错误或口译引起的任何后果不承担一切责任。</p> <p>谁来保证翻译的可靠性?</p>	<p>The Company is not responsible for the accuracy of the translations provided by the Service or for any consequences arising from translation errors or interpretations.</p> <p>Who will guarantee it?</p>	<p>Das Unternehmen ist nicht verantwortlich für die Richtigkeit der vom Service bereitgestellten Übersetzungen oder für Folgen, die sich aus Übersetzungsfehlern oder Interpretationen ergeben.</p> <p>Wer garantiert die Zuverlässigkeit der Übersetzungen?</p>

Methodical disambiguation by language tri-angulation (of culture affine and distant languages)
 Triangular Translation, Exercise 2, cultural sensitivity.

<p>Mars MT</p>	<p>Angesichts der einzigartigen innere Kraft der Roten Kultur Chinas verblasst die politische Farbenlehre des Westens.</p>	<p>Given the unique internal force of Chinas Red Culture, the political color theory of the West is fading.</p>	<p>鉴于中国红色文化独特的内在力量, 西方的政治色彩理论正在衰落。</p>	<p>In view of the unique internal strength of Chinese red culture, the theory of political color in the West is declining.</p>	<p>Angesichts der einzigartigen inneren Stärke der chinesischen roten Kultur nimmt die Theorie der politischen Farbe im Westen ab.</p>
<p>Microsoft Bing</p>	<p>Angesichts der einzigartigen innere Kraft der Roten Kultur Chinas verblasst die politische Farbenlehre des Westens.</p>	<p>In the face of the unique inner power of China's Red Culture, the West's political color theory is fading.</p>	<p>面对中国红色文化独特的内在力量, 西方的政治色彩理论正在消退。</p>	<p>In the face of the unique inner power of China's Red Culture, the West's political color theory is fading.</p>	<p>Angesichts der einzigartigen intrinsischen Stärke der roten Kultur Chinas verblasen westliche Theorien über politische Farbe.</p>

Findings

A simple tri-angular test reveals non-trivial semantic, syntactic and stylistic variances.

Revisit Basic Questions: What...

- is a good translation? (Genres & Purposes)

**- do we expect from a good translation?
(Technical Means & Human Capacities)**

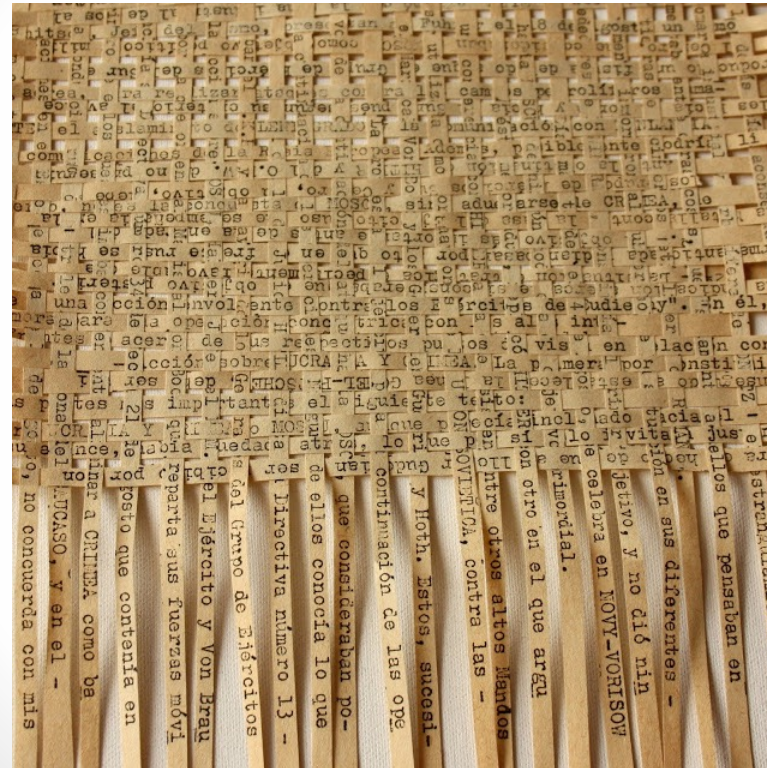
- is the best possible role of machine-translation?

Who is responsible for what? (Design & Outcome)



Always here for you!

随时为你们服务



See you next time!

Professor Dr. Ole Döring
Email / 电子邮件: oledoering@googlemail.com