

Language, Texts and Technology

Washington State University - Vancouver, spring 2011

Assignments due for: **Jan. 26, 2011**

<http://ltspring2011.blogspot.com/>

[] **Translation exercise (25 points)** – Translate *at least two lines* of your memorized text *into each* of the following forms (*six lines total, you choose the new languages*):

- 1. Logographic** (a language through pictures, such as Chinese or Egyptian hieroglyphics)
- 2. Syllabic** (symbols represent syllables, or sequences of speech sounds, such as Cherokee or Thai or Tibetan)
- 3. Alphabetic** (other than English; ie transform English into Spanish, French, German).

To do that, you first are going to have to learn about how your chosen languages work. You will need to research the grammar of each language and the obstacles created when converting those into English. That will include gaining some working rudimentary knowledge about the construction of the languages, which you will demonstrate in your translation and accompanying paper.

The paper will include:

[] The three translations (3 points), with the English stacked on top of the translated text, like this:

I have a brown dog.
Tengo un perro marrón.

[] At least 100 words about how *each* language operates in comparison to English, similarities and differences (9 points).

[] At least 250 words about how you made your choices in translating *each* section with a focus on your handling of ambiguities, as defined in the Biguenet and Schulte handout, *including* direct examples from your work (13 points).

Submit that 1,050-word (minimum, plus translations) document to brett.oppegaard@gmail.com, with the subject line “Translation Exercise,” before the start of class.

[] Continue bonding with your Life Map team; collecting symbols, refining ideas, learning more about what connects you (for more details, see the Life Map assignment guide, posted on the class blog, under Assignments DUE); at this point you should have a rough plan and have started to collect the material you will need to earn the assignment's points. **(Life Map due Feb. 9).**

Readings:

[] Summary of “The Craft of Translation” by John Biguenet and Rainer Schulte, provided by Dr. Dene Grigar (found on the class blog, under Class Materials).

[] Wittgenstein (Left-hand side of the text is in German, right-hand side in English, but it starts in Latin; if you can read the German, this is another example of translation to analyze).