

Language, Texts and Technology

Washington State University, spring 2010

Assignments due for: **Jan. 27, 2010**

<http://ltspring2010.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 150 words about how each language (minimum of 450 words total) operates, compared to English, similarities and differences (6 points).

[] At least 300 words about how you translated each section, details about how you built your new sentences, with examples from your work (6 points)

[] At least 550 words in summary, about obstacles you encountered, parts of this exercise you found interesting, what you learned, reflections on the Biguenet & Schulte summary, etc. (10 points)

Submit that 1,000-word (minimum) 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 class materials); 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; don't start construction, though, until after reading the Barton article, which will be discussed in class on Feb. 3 (**Life Map due Feb. 10**).

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 pp. 2-38, course pack pp. 39-76. (Left-hand side of the text is in German, right-hand side in English; if you can read the German, this is another example of translation to analyze).