**How to Hunt a Poem with a Translation Gun**

POEM: hardest, least rewarding (at least now) practical work BUT highest aesthetic yield

-Workshop will be under realistic conditions: practice, but also “genious” for *mot juste*

 Added problem of black slang (“dead”/”alien” context), ignorant TL audience

-Difficulties: rhythm, rhyme, poetic devices; also Greek more “verbose” than English

-Elements: Form (size, stanzas, devices, rhyme, meter); rhythm (meter+flow), tone (formality level, linguistic choices, emotion communicated), cultural context

-The Spivak “subalternity” dilemma: TL=SL effect, or retain “foreignness” of SL text? Depends on SL/TL centrality

METHOD

1. Read and try to understand meaning (paraphrase), determine text genre, formality level, idiosyncracies, aim. Use online sources like criticism and trivia.
2. Seek (historico-cultural) context
3. Translate verbatim (Bassnett’s linguistic equivalence)
4. Determine metrical equivalency (Bassnet’s syntagmatic equivalence)
5. Seek rhymed words (rhyming and synonym dictionaries)—reorganize syntax, vocabulary
6. Seek language effects equivalency (diction, poetic devices; B’s stylistic equivalence)
7. Seek rhythm
8. Embellish with “rich” comments/footnotes
9. DO NOT “POETICIZE” LANGUAGE OR ADD “INTERPRETATION”—understanding should come through word choice/play and syntax

TRICKS

1. Spread out lines (1🡪2) when you can (e.g., ballads)
2. Longer lines
3. Synonyms (beware of false friends, tone alterations, and other meanings of a word!)
4. Perfect/general rhymes
5. Change rhyme pattern, or blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter), free verse
6. Greek syntax versatility
7. Enjambment, caesura, synizesis
8. Prose translation (of “invariant core” or “dominant structure” of SL work)
9. Can you rap/sing it?