

General Translation

Rus601/602
Room HUM22
TTh 10:15-11:35

Hilde Hoogenboom
hhoogenboom@albany.edu
HUM240, 442-4151
T 4:15-5:15, W 3-4
& by appointment

Course Description

Through the translation of Russian expository prose into English, we will examine the process of translation. We will analyze choosing a text, comparing translations, making technical decisions about style, voice, lexicon, and the structure of sentences, paragraphs, and a whole text, and polishing translations, within the context of the audience and possible meanings in a text. In addition to weekly translations and brief accounts of their decision-making process, students will learn about the history, theories, and profession of translating. As a final project, students will develop a proposal, with a letter to a publisher or editor and a CV, and do a sample translation of five pages with an analysis of goals, problems, and solutions. Students will review each other's final projects, edit, and revise their work. Students are encouraged to work together on their translations and will present all work in class for discussion.

Required Texts

- *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*, by Mona Baker, Routledge, 1992
- *Translating Culture: Перевод и межкультурная коммуникация, Этап 1: Уровень слова*, by A. L. Burak, Izd. R. Valent, 2002. (хорох)
- Sofia Kovalevskaya, "Vospominaniia o Dzhordzhe Elliote," *Vospominaniia i povesti* (Moscow, 1974), 230-44.

Dictionaries

- *Slovar' sovremennogo russkogo literaturnogo iazyka*, 17 vols. (Moscow, 1950-65) Reference: PG 2625 A533 This is *the* Russian-Russian dictionary.
- *Slovar' sovremennogo russkogo literaturnogo iazyka ;v 20 tomakh*, (Moscow: Russkii iazyk, 1991-) Reference: PG 2625 A533 1999 This is the new edition of *the* Russian-Russian dictionary, but only the first four volumes came out.
- *Elsevier's Russian-English Dictionary*, by Paul Macura (1990). Reference: PG 2640 M34X 1990
- *Slovar' iazyka Pushkina*, by V. V. Vinogradov, 4 vols. (Moscow, 1959-61) PG3350 A3 A7

Requirements

- Weekly translations (due Tuesday), revised translation (due Thursday), and one-page description of process (due Thursday) (30%)
- Choose a text for your final project in consultation with me by October 20.
- Translation Proposal, which should include a description of the project, the length, the projected audience, its significance, the history of translations of the text (if appropriate), why your translation will be good/better, your qualifications, and possible publishers (4-5 pages), due November 1 for peer review. Please submit your

revised proposal with the final sample translation and analysis, as well as a letter to the publisher or editor and your CV, due December 6. (20%)

- Sample Translation (5 pages) and analysis of the translation process (4-5 pages), due Nov. 22 for peer review; revised translation and analysis due December 6. (30%)
- Submit final polish of class translation project. (20%)

Syllabus

Week 1

T Aug 30 Introduction: Text, Translation, Translator, Reader, and Publisher

Th Sept 1 History of Russian Translation

- *The Translator in the Text: On Reading Russian Literature in English*, Rachel May, Ch. 1: "Translation Culture" (11-55) PG 2985 M36 1994
- Vilen Komissarov, "Russian Tradition," *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*, ed. by Mona Baker, (New York: Routledge, 2001), (541-49) Reference: P 306 R68 1998

Week 2 Translation in Practice

T Sept 6 Dictionaries

- *Translating Culture*, ch. 2: "The Translator's Tools," read and do Ex. 1 (p.21), a prepared translation of "Оптимисты"
- *Translating Culture*, list of dictionaries (pp. 7-8): locate dictionaries in the library and list their call numbers; look at *Elsevier's Russian-English Dictionary*, by Paul Macura.

Th Sept 8 The Translation Process

Translating Culture, ch. 2, ex. 2-5 (pp. 22-24, 116)

Week 3 Translation in Theory: A Brief Overview

T Sept 13 Eugene Nida, "Bible Translation," *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*, ed. By Mona Baker (New York: Routledge, 2001).

Th Sept 15 Modern Theory and Russian Translation Theory

Week 4 Baker, Ch. 2 on Words

T Sept 20

Translating Culture, ch. 3, "Basic Transformations in the Process of Translation," read and do ex. 1-2 (pp.28-29)

Th Sept 22

Translating Culture, ch. 3, ex. 3-6 (29-31)

Week 5 Baker, Ch. 3 on Phrases

T Sept 27 Begin translating Kovalevskaya's "Memoirs of George Eliot"

Th Sept 29 Kovalevskaya

Week 6 Baker, Ch. 4 on Grammar
T Oct 4 Classes suspended for Rosh Hashanah

Th Oct 6 Kovalevskaya

Week 7 Baker, Ch. 4 on Word Order
T Oct 11 Kovalevskaya

Th Oct 13 Classes suspended for Yom Kippur

Week 8 Baker, Ch. 4 on Word Order
T Oct 18 Kovalevskaya

Th Oct 20 choose a text for final project

Week 9 Baker, Ch. 5 on Word Order
T Oct 25 Kovalevskaya

Th Oct 27 Kovalevskaya

Week 10 Baker, Ch. 5 on Textual Cohesion
T Nov 1 submit proposals to me and each other

Th Nov 3 No class – students meet to review each other’s proposals

Week 11 Baker, Ch. 5 on Textual Coherence
T Nov 8 Kovalevskaya

Th Nov 10 Kovalevskaya

Week 12 Baker, Ch. 5 on Textual Coherence
T Nov 15 Kovalevskaya

Th Nov 17 Kovalevskaya

Week 13
T Nov 22 Sample translation and analysis due

T Nov 24 Classes suspended for Thanksgiving

Week 14
T Nov 29 peer review of translations and analyses

Th Dec 1 Kovalevskaya

Week 15

T Dec 6 Kovalevskaya
submit revised proposal, sample translation, and analysis

Th Dec 8 Final review of Kovalevskaya and translation projects

There is no final exam, but all materials must be submitted by the final exam date:
Tuesday, December 20th, 1-3 pm