



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE CODE: FRE 392

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN TRANSLATION

FRE 392: ADVANCED STUDIES IN TRANSLATION

Course Developer:
Dr. Isaiah Bariki
Department of French
University of Ilorin
Ilorin – Nigeria

Unit Writer: Dr.
Isaiah Bariki
Department of French
University of Ilorin
Ilorin – Nigeria

Programme Leader:
Dr. Olu Akeusola
National Open University of Nigeria
Lagos.

Course Coordinator:
Ms Lucy Jibrin
National Open University of Nigeria
Lagos.

UNIT I

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSLATION

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 A Short History of Translation
 - 3.1 The Importance of Translation
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

This unit is to further stress the importance of translation. This will be preceded by a short history of translation dating back to the days of Pharaoh in Egypt. You will read general ideas on the relevance of translation. The relevance of translation is not far-fetched. You observe it in your daily life.

2.0. Objectives

On the successful completion of this unit, you should be able to appreciate:

- a brief history of translation
- the usefulness of translation in general
- the usefulness of translation as a tool for teaching languages
- the role of translation in portraying Nigeria's literary greatness
- the role of translation in international conferences and meetings

3.0 A Short History of Translation

Translation in the form of interpretation is believed to be as old as man. Its origin dates back to the origin of different

languages. In the Western world (i.e. Europe and America), the story of the tower of Babel as told in the Bible (Genesis chapter eleven) is used in relating to the genesis or beginning of translation. That is why you have one of the most important translation journals known as *Babel*. George Steiner titled his seminal and very useful book on translation as *After Babel*.

Interpreters were well known in Pharaoh's Egypt. The first known instances of translation (written as opposed to oral) originated from the Middle East. Three civilizations in Mesopotamia – Sumer, Babylon and Assyria – successively undertook translation activities. At Nineveh, there were 30,000 tablets with inscriptions in three different languages. The Mesopotamian culture was one of translation. It thrived on translation, for in Babylon of Hammurabi, the scribes were charged with translating the edicts into many languages.

In today's world, the vast movement of people for various reasons such as trade, migration, wars, diplomacy, religion have encouraged translation. Over the years, biblical translation has contributed immensely to translation theory and practice. The Bible is the most translated book.

Eugene Nida (1964), a renown translator and linguist, gave the following reasons among some others to buttress the importance of biblical translation to translation generally:

1. Biblical translation involves a great variety of languages and cultures.
2. The Bible touches on various themes and topics e.g. proverbs, poetry.
3. Bible translators have recourse to a variety of principles, procedures and theories.
4. Bible translation usually involves people of different invaluable expertise, thus leading to numerous, healthy and enriching debates.
5. The Bible has the greatest number of volumes of manuscripts.

Translation is really experiencing a boost as globalization brings human beings of different languages closer by the day.

3.1 The Importance of Translation.

Translation helps in interaction among people of different languages. It is an activity you carry out very regularly. Perhaps, you are not very conscious of the fact that you may have been involved in translation in a practical way. At one time or the other you must have translated from your language into English or vice versa. In this course, the translation involves two European languages: English and French. Both languages are of great universal importance and should be mastered for effective communication and translation. English is the most widely spoken language in the world. It is also Nigeria's official language. Its mastery is therefore an obligation for you. As for French, it is the official language of Nigeria's neighbours. And very importantly, you have either opted to have a degree in French or have taken it as a course; hence the need for you to write and speak it appreciably well.

Very often, communication is grounded to a halt or at least hindered when people from different linguistic communities have to interact. For successful communication, a translator or interpreter may be needed when there is no mutual linguistic intelligibility in the languages used.

Translation is a very important course. Translation also offers an excellent opportunity for the study of foreign languages. In this course, you will use translation to study French. When you use translation to study a language, you call it pedagogical translation (**la traduction pédagogique**). As you learnt in FRE 301, there is **le thème** and **la version**. It may be necessary to recall what these words stand for. **Le thème** involves the translation of a text or passage from the mother tongue into the foreign language. For instance, when a Frenchman translates a text from French into another language (e.g. English), it is **le thème**_(theme). On the

contrary, when the Frenchman translates from English into French, it is **version** (version)

In our own situation in Nigeria where English and French are both foreign languages, the terms do not really apply. We cannot talk of **thème** and **version** as such because both languages are foreign to us. However, Bariki (2000) created the terms “para-thème” and “para-version”. He used “para-thème” when Nigerian students are translating from English into French. On the other hand, he used “para-version” to describe a text that is translated from French into English. The reasoning is this: For a Nigerian student, English has some elements of “version”. That is, the average Nigerian student is very much at home with English which is his official language. He speaks English very fluently and habitually. English therefore has – remotely though – some traits of mother tongue; hence the term “para-version”. Most students find it easier to translate from French into English because English is the habitual language i.e. a language they use very regularly.

The two terms are created in line with terms like “paramedical” and “paramilitary”. “Para” means “similar to” and is used with adjectives and nouns. In other words, “paramilitary” means, “organized and operating like an army” (*Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* 2007). In the same vein, we may say that “para-thème” (para-thème) is similar to “thème” and para-version is similar to “version”.

You can, however, talk of theme and version where the translation involves a mother tongue and a foreign language. For instance, it is very appropriate to use these terms in an Hausa class where an Hausa text is translated to English or French.

You appreciate the relevance of translation when you keep in view the numerous languages in the world. Experts are not sure of the exact number. Some experts give the number as 4200. Our world is a multilingual one. That is to say, the world has many languages. It is through translation that you can appreciate the literature as well as social and cultural values of people who do not speak your language. For instance, through translation, the world

enjoys the literary greatness of Nigerian authors like Wole Soyinka and Chinua Achebe. Translation has made us to be proud of our cultural and literary legacy. Chinua Achebe's famous novel *Things Fall Apart* has been translated into over 30 languages. The French version is *Le monde s'effondre*. Try and get a copy and read it. Compare it with the original work.

It is also through translation that we know details of developments in science, technology, medicine and other fields of knowledge. Without translation, most of the link with ancient civilizations such as Greece, Egypt and China would have been lost.

In the contemporary world, translators and interpreters are in high demand. They are useful at international meetings and conferences. Given the diversity of languages, translators and interpreters are indispensable in diplomatic circles. Take for instance, various meetings at the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS. The nations represented in these international bodies speak different languages. So, the presence of translators and interpreters is indispensable. At the United Nations, French is one of the official languages. The same thing applies to the African Union and ECOWAS. In fact, at ECOWAS, the French speaking countries outnumber their English speaking counterparts. English and Portuguese are also spoken at ECOWAS meetings.

4.0 Conclusion

Translation is needed in many international organizations. Translators are needed in such organizations.

In this unit, you have learnt of the history of translation and the importance of translation. You have known that translation is an age-long tool for communication and teaching of foreign languages. You appreciate the unavoidable need to master English and French. In our French classes the terms "thème" and "version" are not very appropriate terms. "Para-thème" and "para-version" may be considered.

5.0 Summary

This unit has equipped you with the significance of translation. The knowledge you have acquired here will inspire you to work harder on this course. If you desire to be translator or interpreter, you may pursue courses in these areas later. You also know the names of a few schools where translation and interpretation are taught. You may want to go to any of these schools if you have a flair for the subjects.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

1. Write a very short history of translation in your own words
2. Give two reasons why translation is important.
3. What is the difference between “thème” and “version”?
4. Why are the terms “para-thème” and “para-version” used for translation classes in Nigeria ?
5. What is the meaning of paramilitary?
6. Name two international organizations where interpreters and translators can work.
7. Name five official languages of the United Nations.
8. Identify three schools where translators and interpreters are trained.
9. Do you consider yourself qualified to work as a translator at the end of this course?
10. Find out the different languages spoken by the different countries of ECOWAS.

7.0 References

- Bariki, K. O (1999): *La traduction appliquée et le français dans les universités nigérianes*
- Ojo, S.A. (2002): *A Comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*, Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Nida, E (1964): *Towards a Science of Translating*, Leiden E. J. Brill

UNIT 2

SCOPE OF TRANSLATION

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Definition of Scope
 - 3.1 Scope of Translation
 - 3.2 Recall of Procedures of Translation
 - 3.3 Beyond the Dictionary
 - 3.4 The Importance of Context
 - 3.5 Creativity and Adaptation
 - 3.6 Beyond Bilingualism
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.1 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

In the last unit, you learnt a lot on the importance of translation and translators. This unit introduces you to a general overview of the requirements in translating. You will learn the definition of scope. You will also learn a few general notions on translation.

2.0 Objectives

As you successfully complete this unit, you should be able to:

- talk about the scope of translation generally.
- talk about the usefulness and limits of dictionaries in translation.
- know the names of some good bilingual and unilingual languages (*langues bilingues et unilingues*).
- discuss the importance of context in translation.
- discuss creativity in translation.

3.0 Definition of Scope

3.1 Scope of Translation

The word “scope” simply means “the range of things that a subject, activity, books, etc. deals with.” (*Longman Dictionary of English* 2003:1275). Scope of translation therefore means the various aspects or issues translation deals with.

Translation means reproducing the meaning in a text from one language (known as the source language) into another (the target language). The source language in French is **langue source** or **langue de départ** while the target language is called **langue cible** or **langue d’arrivée**. A translator must be functionally bilingual; that is, he must be able to write and speak two different languages. It is, however, not enough to be bilingual. You must have a good command of the languages. If you do not have a good grasp of the language, you will make many mistakes. That will tell negatively on your personality just as it can cause communication and/or comprehension problems. Just imagine someone speaking your language badly. How do you feel? Besides, you should be familiar with the subject matter. If you are not familiar with the subject matter, you may not understand the text you are translating. That automatically means you will be giving wrong translations.

In the translation class, you will be given a variety of texts to translate. This will enable you to acquire words and expressions on different aspects of life. You will also be exposed to different grammatical structures.

In order to translate from English to French and vice versa, you should write good English and French. That is why you should take this course very seriously. You need also to do a lot of practice on your own. The saying that “practice makes perfect” is very true in relation to translation. The more you translate texts, the more you sharpen your ability to translate.

While translating, you will observe that you may not get an exact meaning or equivalent in some cases. You simply get to the nearest equivalent. Ex. **J’ai mangé la baguette** – I have eaten

bread. The English translation does not give you a clear idea of the type of bread. “Baguette” is found in the English dictionary, but if you use it most Nigerians are not likely to understand you. “Baguette” is a “long thin loaf of bread made in the French style, soft inside and hard outside” *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* (2007:98).

There are even instances where you cannot get an equivalent. This is common in cultural issues like food, dance, institutions, etc. There are no direct equivalents of gari, amala, tuwo, akpu, osun, gbegiri, afan, etc. in French. You may therefore have recourse to **emprunt** (borrowing). That means you use the same word. In addition, you may explain the type of food. You put the explanation in brackets or at the end of the chapter or book. In other words you may use footnotes. The other way out is for you to use the method of adaptation as you have earlier learnt in FRE 301

3.2 Recall of Procedures of Translation

Remember the translation procedures you learnt in FRE 301. Please, revise the notes. They will be useful. Take, for instance, if you have to translate *fufu*, *amala*, *tuwo* and other Nigerian food items into French. You cannot get any French equivalent; you may just use the adaptation procedure or explain what the food is like. Alternatively you use the word “pâte”. Similarly, “le beignet” can be used for doughnut, puff puff, etc. Briefly review your notes on **traduction littérale**, **calque**, **emprunt**, **transposition**, **modulation**, **équivalence** and **adaptation**. You treated them in FRE 301.

3.3 Beyond the Dictionary

It is necessary to recall the usefulness of dictionaries – bilingual dictionaries (**dictionnaires bilingues**) and monolingual dictionaries (**dictionnaires monolingues**). Bilingual dictionaries are written in French and English and monolingual dictionaries are either wholly French or English. Buy fairly big dictionaries. The smaller ones do not contain enough words.

There are different types of dictionaries. Some simple explanations are very good for daily use. *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* and *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* are such good monolingual English Dictionaries. For good monolingual French dictionary, you may buy *Le Petit Larousse* or *Le Petit Robert*. You can also find the following bilingual dictionaries very useful: *Collins Robert French Dictionary* and *Harraps French/English Dictionary*. Make sure you buy very current editions. The more current the better. The reason is that the older edition may not have some new or current words in them. Besides, language being very dynamic, words change slightly or wholly in meaning over the years. You should have access to many dictionaries in order to compare definitions. With time you should aspire to have dictionaries dedicated to specialized or technical words.

Good as dictionaries are, they cannot translate for you. Translation is not mechanical. You cannot just look up a word and write down the equivalent. If you do that, you will end up with a bad translation. As an example, let us examine and translate the following sentence:

I am eating- je mange.

or

je suis en train de manger

If you look up for « eating » separately in the dictionary you may write « je suis mangeant ». That would be very wrong. In order to translate well, you should have a good grasp of your grammar and a rich store of vocabulary, not only of French but of English too. Remember that you will translate some texts from French into English as well. Moreover, you are in an English-speaking country. You must write and speak very good English.

3.4 The Importance of Context

Another crucial thing to remember while translating is context. The context will determine the meaning of a word. When you look up for a word in the dictionary, you may find many

equivalents or synonyms. It is now left for you to choose the appropriate or correct equivalent. It is the context that will tell you which word or expression is appropriate. Take for instance, the following sentences:

The man kicked the bucket yesterday. He is going to be buried today.

From the context, it is clear that the man did not physically kick the bucket in the sense of using his leg to strike a bucket. The second sentence which talks about burial gives you the clue to the contextual meaning. It means “the man died”. In fact “to kick the bucket” is an idiomatic expression meaning “to die”. In the light of this, the correct translation is “*L’homme est mort hier. Il va être enterré aujourd’hui*”.

Still talking about context, the following sentences have different meanings.

La femme est **grosse**

“Grosse” means either “fat” or “pregnant”. Thus, if you have to translate “Cette femme est grosse” out of context, you have two options. You either translate it as “This woman is fat” or “This woman is pregnant”. But in “Cette grosse femme est grosse”, you are NOT likely to have the two meanings. You may render the sentence as “This fat woman is pregnant”. To avoid confusion or possible misunderstanding, you may simply write or say “Cette femme est **enceinte**”. “Enceinte” means pregnant.

In this last example, there is no room for ambiguity. Ambiguity means “something that is not clear because it has more than one possible meaning” (*Macmillan English Dictionary*, 2007:45).

A final example may be helpful. How do you translate “honey” into French? In the context of food or a meal, honey is “le miel”. Honeymoon is “**la lune de miel**”. But if a man calls his wife “honey”, the correct equivalent will be **chérie** (The woman will address her husband as **chéri**).

3.5 Creativity and Adaptation

The translator should be creative too. This will be necessary as you come across words and expressions that you cannot translate literally. You have learnt of adaptation. Another word for adaptation is **accommodation**. There are different types of adaptation or accommodation: cultural, political, religious, etc. You can find elements of accommodation in literary translations. Look at the titles of the following books and their translations.

Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born	-	by Ayi Kwei Armah
L'âge d'or n'est pas pour demain	-	The literal translation of the French version means « Golden age is not for tomorrow »
Mission Terminée	-	by Mongo Beti
Mission to Kala	-	(translated by Peter Green)
Girls at War	-	by Chinua Achebe
Femmes en guerre	-	translated by Grandsaigne

The word “girls” is translated as “filles” or “jeunes filles” but the translator opts for “femmes” which means “women”. This translation can be tolerated because it is literary translation. It is not rare to find literary translators adopt this approach as you can see in the examples given above.

3.6 Beyond Bilingualism

Bilingualism involves two languages. Someone who is bilingual is able to speak or write two languages. We have seen that it is not enough to be bilingual in order to translate. Language involves elements of culture. You cannot understand some aspects of a language if you do not understand the culture of the people. For this reason, a translator should, ideally, be bicultural too. That means the person should have a good knowledge of the two cultures in question.

In the case of a Nigerian student of French, the person should understand the French culture in order to translate well. You see how translation is not limited to words, expressions and grammar. This is another reason why you should take all other French courses very seriously. The courses are interrelated. If you are good in one, it will consciously or unconsciously help you in another one.

4.0 Conclusion

You now have a general idea of the scope of translation. You have learnt that translation goes beyond bilingualism and the use of dictionaries. You have also learnt the importance of context in translation.

5.0 Summary

You have been reminded of translation procedures. You will now use the dictionary more wisely in translation. You are also more adequately equipped to translate words that do not have direct equivalents. **Emprunt** and **adaptation** can be very useful.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

1. Define “scope” in English.
2. Write briefly on the importance of dictionaries and context in translation.
3. What is **emprunt**? When can it be used?
4. What are the limits of the use of dictionaries in translation?
5. What do you understand by the translation procedure called “adaptation”?
6. What is another word for “adaptation”?
7. Look up for the French word “cousin” in your dictionary. Make two different sentences in French according to their different meanings.
8. Why is understanding culture necessary for good translation?
9. Who wrote Arrow of God?

10. What is the French translation of Arrow of God?

7.0 Reference

Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (New Edition) (2007): London: A & C Black Publishers Ltd.

UNIT 3

TYPES OF TRANSLATION (I)

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Types of Translation
 - 3.1 Written Translation
 - 3.2 Oral Translation or Interpretation
 - 3.2.1 Phases of Interpretation
 - 3.2.2 Professional Status or Organization of Interpretation
 - 3.2.3 Simultaneous Interpretation
 - 3.2.4 Consecutive Interpretation
 - 3.2.5 Whispered Interpretation
 - 3.3 Differences between Translation and Interpretation
 - 3.4 Linguistic Requirements in Interpretation
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

You have learnt a lot on translation. The first unit dealt with the importance of translation, a situation that you observe practically on a daily basis. You, thereafter, saw the scope of translation. That means you saw the different areas that are treated in translation. Now, you will see various types of translations. In other words, there is not just one type of translation. You will learn in this unit the difference between interpretation and translation and the three different phases of interpretation.

You have translated many texts from English to French and vice versa. You will now learn about the different types of translation.

2.0 Objectives

The objective is to teach you the different types of translation. You will learn the differences between translation proper and interpretation. You will also learn the following types of interpretation:

- simultaneous interpretation
- consecutive interpretation
- whispered interpretation or **le chuchotage**.

3.0 Types of Translation

Translation is a very rich course. That is why there are many types of translation. *MacMillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* (2007) defines translation as “spoken or written words that have been changed into a different language”. The key words you should notice in this definition are **spoken** and **written**. In other words, translation can be spoken or written. Let us treat the written one first.

3.1 Written Translation

Written translation is the translation you see on paper. It is the translation that you write. This type differs from oral translation, which is better known as interpretation. The similarities and differences will be highlighted as the unit expands.

3.2 Oral Translation or Interpretation

In “oral translation”, the words are spoken, not written. The translation you hear in the church or mosque is oral translation. It is spoken. The pastor or imam speaks in one language and someone relays it into another. This type of translation is called interpretation. The person who does oral translation is called an interpreter.

As noted earlier, the profession of an interpreter and that of a translator resemble in many varied ways. Both are the consequences of human language that got diversified in the course of history. The example often cited for the dispersion of human

habitat leading to a multiplicity of languages is in the eleventh chapter of Genesis in the Bible. The story or “myth”, as J.R. Ladmeral (1979) prefers to call it, started when man tried to build the tower of Babel. The idea was to prevent the people from scattering all over the surface of the earth. But God felt that the people could do whatever they imagined to do as they all spoke one language. God therefore decided to confound them and they all started speaking different languages. From that period there was need for interpretation. Of course, interpretation started before translation, since speech precedes writing. Interpretation is therefore an old profession. Some people consider it to be the oldest trade or profession on earth.

3.2.1 Phases of Interpretation

The term “interpretation” is derived from Latin. It can be divided into three main phases:

- i) The listening phase. The interpreter listens attentively to the orator. He then reproduces the same message in a language that is different from that of the orator. The target language (TL) is that of the audience.
- ii) The comprehension phase. The interpreter has to assimilate or properly understand the message. He cannot interpret what he does not understand. He has to understand the message correctly. A wrong understanding naturally leads to a wrong message.
- iii) The re-expression phase. The message is reproduced faithfully, precisely and completely.

In history there have been very many cases of infidelity or unfaithfulness in translation or in interpretation. That means he is unfaithful. This old saying is not necessarily true, but it goes to stress the importance of faithful translation.

The translator has to adequately equip himself or herself linguistically. In other words, he should master the two languages

he/she is working with. Or else, he cannot be a good interpreter. The interpreter is also required to have a rich and wide variety of knowledge. Speeches made during meetings or conferences are varied. Some are political, literary or scientific. Others may dwell on issues bordering on economics, social life, medicine or some other technical areas.

But do not be scared. If you want to be an interpreter, make up your mind and be determined to build yourself up through reading. Have very good dictionaries and books dealing with different terminologies. Know the terms at the tip of your finger.

There are good schools for interpretation and translation. If you have the financial means, you may go to either ESIT or ISIT in France. ESIT means L'Ecole Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs and ISIT is Institut Supérieur d'Interprètes et de traducteurs. To qualify for admission in these schools, you should have a first degree (i.e. B.A). In ESIT, you are required to master three European languages. In other words, you will need languages like German or Spanish in addition to English and French.

The various training will help the interpreter to acquire the much needed general culture, openness of spirit or mind, rapidity and capacity for adaptation. An interpreter should have an insatiable curiosity that will push him/her to further research.

3.2.2 Professional Status or Organization of Interpretation

As a profession, interpreters are either permanent interpreters (**interprètes permanents**) or freelance interpreters (**interprètes indépendants or interprètes freelance**).

Permanent interpreters are paid by an organization; they are often employees of big organizations like the United Nations or UNESCO. They receive regular salaries. Freelance interpreters are independent. They are employed for specific assignments in international congresses of diverse kinds. The range of interest covered can be scientific, technical, medical, economic, cultural, diplomatic, etc.

In French, oral translation or interpretation is called **interprétation**. The interpreter is **l'interprète**. Interpreters are in high demand in the world. If you study very hard and can interpret very well, your opportunities in life are great.

There are also different types of interpretation. They are simultaneous interpretation, consecutive interpretation and whispered interpretation (**le chuchotage**).

3.2.3 Simultaneous Interpretation

As the name suggests, in simultaneous interpretation, the speaker or orator and the interpreter speak almost at the same time. As the speaker is talking, the interpreter tries to produce the target language message immediately. In modern times, simultaneous interpretation started in Nuremberg in 1945/1946 when interpreters did their work in cabins.

In advanced countries like America, Britain and France, simultaneous interpretation is a very serious business. It requires highly skilled people. Interpreters generally stay in a booth where they can work undisturbed. They work on the message, bit by bit, as the speaker goes on, for the benefit of those who need to wear a headphone to understand.

What happens in our churches and mosques is quite close to simultaneous interpretation. However, the interpreters in our mosques and churches are not in a booth. Moreover, the Nigerian interpreter generally waits for the speaker to finish an idea. The speaker, in turn, tries to wait for the interpreter to finish his interpretation before he goes on. In conference setting, interpreters interpreting simultaneously do not wait till the end of the sentence. Simultaneous interpretation is **l'interprétation simultanée** or **la simultanée**. Simultaneous interpreters are in high demand. It pays to be one.

3.2.4. Consecutive Interpretation

In consecutive interpretation, the interpreter waits for the speaker to finish before he or she starts interpreting. The

interpreter starts after a good “chunk” of the message is given or waits till the end of the whole message. The waiting interval could range from one to fifteen or even thirty minutes. In some very formal situations, the speaker is obliged to stop at specific intervals to allow the interpreter to do his/her work. This is to avoid a situation where the speaker or orator may be carried away and speak for too long.

He or she normally writes down salient or important points or aid memory. In French, consecutive interpretation is known as **l’interprétation consécutive** or simply **la consécutive**.

3.2.3. Whispered Interpretation

In this case, the interpreter sits by someone who does not understand the language of the speaker. He or she then whispers into the ear of the person who requires interpretation. This is done without gadgets like headphone or microphone. In French, we call this activity **le chuchotage**. The interpreter may interpret for more than one person. Le chuchotage is midway between simultaneous interpretation and consecutive interpretation.

3.3 Differences between Translation and Interpretation.

When you use the word “translation” to mean solely what is written, you can distinguish it from interpretation. Some of the differences are as follows:

1. The translator may not see the author.
2. The work to be translated is in written form.
3. In almost all cases, the original work and the translation are produced at different times.

On the other hand, the interpreter sees the speaker. He is present while the speaker is delivering his message. What is to be interpreted may not be written. It may be spoken in the original form and it is also interpreted orally. The translator has time to consult dictionaries and other documents in the course of his work. The interpreters cannot consult while talking. He can only do so after the work.

3.4 Linguistic Requirements in Interpretation

It is still pertinent to talk a little more on the issue of the languages used in interpretation. Usually the languages of conference interpretation are divided into three categories: A, B and C. This is the classification given by **L'Association des interprètes de conférence** – founded in Paris in 1953.

A is the mother tongue or any language the interpreter has mastered as much as his mother tongue. The interpreter normally interpretes into the “A” language, i.e. his mother tongue or a language he can use deftly and with ease. Every interpreter must have at least one “A” language. He may have many languages in the B or C category.

B - The B language is not the maternal language but the interpreter has a perfect or near perfect mastery. This may not be as good as language A.

C - In language C, the interpreter has a very good passive knowledge of the language. He understands the language very well, but may not be able to speak it fluently and confidently. The interpreter’s knowledge here is not as active as the “A” or “B” language. The knowledge to a large extent is passive. The interpreter can translate from but NOT into this language. The reason is clear. He may make avoidable mistakes.

In Europe and other advanced parts of the world, interpreters translate mainly into their language A or B (i.e. mother tongue and a mastered language). This is to ensure spontaneity, lexical richness and stylistic ease. But the African interpreter may not have the opportunity of translating into the modern tongue in big conferences. He can however use his “B” language which may be English, French, Portuguese depending on whether he is Anglophone, Francophone or Lusophone. People who speak Portuguese are Lusophone.

4.0 Conclusion

You can now see how interesting translation can be. It is very rich. It has many parts. You can speak or write in translation. But

you do not carry out translation proper and interpretation the same way. One is oral the other is written.

5.0 Summary

The unit has equipped you to know the different types of translation. You have also studied the three phases of interpretation. You also realize that there are differences between written and oral translation (interpretation). Good interpreters are in high demand.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

1. Name the different types of translation.
2. Write briefly on the different types of interpretation.
3. What are the differences between oral translation and written translation?
4. Write on the importance of the different phases of interpretation.
5. What does **le chuchotage** mean?
6. Name the languages you speak and group them into A, B, and C.
7. Write out some challenges translators and interpreters are likely to face.

7.0 Reference

- Ladmiral, J. C. (1979) : *Traduire: Théorèmes pour la traduction*, Paris : Petite Bibliothèque Payot
- Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* (2007), United Kingdom, A&C Black Publishers Ltd.
- Seleskovitch, D. and Lederer, M. (1986), *Interpréter pour traduire*, Paris: Edition Erudition.

UNIT 4 TYPES OF TRANSLATION (II)

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Types of Translation
 - 3.1 Interlingual Translation
 - 3.2 Intralingual Translation
 - 3.3 Intersemiotic Translation
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

1.0 Introduction

In this unit, you will learn about some other types of translation. In the last unit, you saw the differences in terms of whether a text to be translated is spoken or written, i.e. the difference between interpretation and translation.

This time, the difference is not whether or not it is the spoken word. The types treated here are:

- (i) translation involving two different languages.
- (ii) translation within the same language.
- (iii) translation of signs and symbols into human language.

The numerous examples on intralingual translation will greatly enrich your vocabulary. They will challenge you to use the dictionary frequently. Besides, they will sensitize you on different ways of saying the same thing.

2.0 Objectives

As you successfully complete this unit, you will know the following types of translation:

- interlingual translation or **la traduction interlinguale**
- intralingual translation or **la traduction intralinguale**

- intersemiotic translation or **la traduction intersémiotique**
- These types of translation were first noted by Roman Jakobson.

3.0 Types of Translation

Roman Jakobson groups translation into the following: interlingual translation, intralingual translation and intersemiotic translation.

3.1 Interlingual Translation

In interlingual translation (**la traduction interlinguale or la traduction interlinguistique**), you translate from one language to another. When you translate from English to French or any other language, it is interlingual translation. All the texts we have been translating so far fall into the category of interlingual translation. Let us see a few examples:

I am a student - Je suis étudiant
J'arrive - I am coming

The two examples are interlingual translation. They are “interlingual” because they are translated from one language to another. This type of translation involves two different languages. Some people say this is the real translation or translation proper, **la traduction proprement dite**.

3.2 Intralingual Translation

In intralingual translation (**la traduction intralinguale ou la traduction intralinguistique**), you change the words in the same language. The message is the same basically, but the words are different. Let us see a few examples:

Paul est plus grand que moi
Je suis moins grand que Paul

You realize that both sentences are in French. The first sentence means literally “Paul is taller than me”. The second one means “I am shorter than Paul”. The two mean basically the same

even though they have different subjects. Let us see another example.

1. Le ragoût de ma mère est très fameux
2. Le potage de ma mère est très excellent
3. La soupe de ma mère est très délicieuse
4. Le potage de ma mère est très appétissant

These four sentences are saying almost the same thing in French. “My mother’s soup is very delicious”. The words used for “soup” and “delicious” are different. In a way, they are synonyms. Synonyms are different words meaning the same or almost the same thing.

We talk of intralingual translation here because the language of communication is entirely French. Another word for **la traduction intralinguale** is **la reformulation**.

You can remind yourself of the meaning of “interlingual” and “intralingual” through the following:

Intra-city bus services	-	buses that ply within the city or town
Inter-city bus services	-	buses that ply from one city or town to another
Intra-party	-	within the same party
Inter-party	-	between two different parties
Intra-campus	-	within the same campus
Inter-campus	-	between two different campuses

In a way, all definitions, summaries and paraphrases are intralingual translation. In other words, when you are defining a word or expression in the same language, what you are doing is intralingual translation. A speech reported in the same language also has elements of **traduction intralinguale**.

Let us take an interesting examples of interlingual and intralingual translation together. The original version which is

taken from Adebowale's *Out of his mind* (1987:95) in Ozidi Bariki (2001:22--23):

As days rolled by, Alamu sank deeper and deeper into his private world. So much so that Labake feared that her husband was soon going to go completely deaf and dumb – these in addition to the already heavy load of problems he was carrying on his shoulder.

The translation is given thus:

Au fil des jours (au fur et à mesure que les jours s'écoulaient), Alamu s'ensevelit de plus en plus dans la solitude. D'autant plus que Labake craignait que son mari ne devienne complètement sourd-muet. Cela s'ajoutait au fardeau de problèmes qu'il portait déjà sur les épaules.

The translator can decide to replace “au fil des jours” with “au fur et à mesure que les jours s'écoulaient”. They mean the same thing, but the two can't be used at the same time, hence the brackets are used to show another possible option.

You will be given another version of the same text. The difference is that different words and expressions are used:

Comme les jours s'écoulaient, Alamu se recroquevillait plus profondément dans sa vie privée. D'autant plus que Labake craignait que son mari ne devienne bientôt un sourd-muet – en plus du fardeau de problèmes qu'il trimbalait.

As earlier stated, the first translation is what is known as interlingual translation. It is what is traditionally understood to be translation. The second French is an intralingual translation.

Intralingual translation is very helpful in enriching one's vocabulary and expressions. You may wish to try it on your own. Remember also that any time you define a word or you paraphrase or summarize a passage, you are involved in some kind of intralingual translation.

Very often, intralingual translation brings about nuances or slight differences in meaning. This is because synonyms do not always mean exactly the same thing.

Note the following examples – all of which mean 'I am eating':

Je me restaure

Je mange

Je bouffe

Je boulotte

'Je me restaure' is rather high sounding. 'Je mange' is the normal day to day usage. 'Je bouffe' is colloquial while 'Je boulotte' is slang. Colloquial and slang expressions and words should not be used in official gatherings, meetings or situations.

3.3 Intersemiotic Translation

In intersemiotic translation, you translate a text into a sign or you translate a sign into a written or spoken text. "Semiotics" is the study of signs. Signs are common in science and mathematics. We also see them in music. The blind use braille and when what is in braille is written or spoken out in conventional language, we say it is intersemiotic translation.

Road signs are also intersemiotic translations.

Let us use some mathematical examples:

$$2 + 2 = 4$$

Deux plus deux égalent quatre

$$2 \times 3 = 6$$

Deux fois trois égalent six

You can also draw a picture to give a message. When the drawing is written out, it becomes intersemiotic translation. The

French equivalent of intersemiotic translation is **la traduction intersémiotique**.

Everyday, we encounter **la traduction intersémiotique**. The watch tells you the time using signs. As you translate the time, you are having recourse to **la traduction intersémiotique**.

As you go out today or tomorrow, write down the various opportunities of **traduction intersémiotique**. Use the following to help you:

1. road signs
2. your watch
3. various drawings

4.0 Conclusion

Your general knowledge of translation is getting transformed. You can tell anyone about Roman Jakobson's three-fold definition of translation.

5.0 Summary

You have learnt **la traduction interlinguale**, **la traduction intralinguale** and **la traduction intersémiotique**. Use them daily. You will enjoy them.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

1. What are the types of translation that Roman Jakobson wrote about?
2. What type of translation is it when you translate from French into English?
3. What do you understand by **la traduction proprement dite**?
4. What is **la traduction intersémiotique**? Give your own examples to illustrate the meaning?
5. What is the difference between **la traduction intralinguale**?
6. Use your dictionary and find out the slight differences in the meanings of the following words, all of which meaning basically 'child' progéniture, héritier, gamin, gosse and moutard.

7. Who uses braille to read?

7.0 References

Bariki, Ozidi (2001): “Rénover la traduction pédagogique à travers la traduction intralinguale” in *Translation Nouvelle série XX* No 1-2 pp19-27

Jakobson, Roman (1963): *Essai de linguistique générale*, Paris: Edition de Minuit (traduit en français par Nicolas Ruwet (1974)).

UNIT 5

TEXT TYPOLOGY IN TRANSLATION

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Text Typology in Translation
 - 3.1 Literary Texts
 - 3.2 Medical Texts
 - 3.3 Translation of a Medical Text
 - 3.4 Model Translation
 - 3.5 Vocabulary
 - 3.6 More Practical Translations
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 Reference

1.0 Introduction

You have learnt of different types of translation. The types of translation can be influenced by the type of text you have to translate. This unit will introduce you to different texts you may encounter in translation. It will let you realize that all texts are not translated the same way. For instance, a literary text (e.g. a novel) cannot be translated the same way as a medical or scientific text. There is more flexibility and freedom in literacy translation than a technical or scientific text. Medical, technical and scientific texts demand “high” faithfulness to avoid misunderstanding and catastrophe.

2.0 Objectives

On successful completion of this unit, you will appreciate different texts involved in translation. You will know that the different texts often have different approaches in translation. The different texts also have different problems or challenges.

The main objective is to teach you translations involving the following types of texts.

- literary texts
- technical and scientific texts
- medical texts

You will also learn the following words and their meanings: **radiographie, somnifère, insomnie, comprimé, retraité, rechauffement climatique, pisciculture, séisme, etc.**

3.0 Text Typology in Translation

“Typology” simply means “a system for arranging things in groups...” (*Macmillan English Dictionary for advanced Learners* (2007)). In this unit, the different texts to be translated are put in groups. For our purpose, we are going to treat only two groups. They are literary texts and technical and scientific texts. Technical and scientific texts are grouped together as one.

For our slightly technical text, we opt for a medical one. You will read and translate it later in this unit.

3.1 Literary texts

Literary texts are texts relating to the kind of words you use in stories and poems. In this group or category, we have in mind novels, short stories, poems and plays.

Literary texts are written in form of prose, poetry or plays. There is a literary language which may not be common in normal writing or speech. In poetry, you may talk of rhymes and metres. Some literary writers like Soyinka may deliberately use flowery language. According to *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*, “flowery language or writing uses many complicated words which are intended to make it more attractive”. This leads us to style. Every author has his own style. Chinua Achebe’s style is different from that of Wole Soyinka or Amos Tutuola. The style is not the message. It is the way the message is passed across. Most translators are of the opinion that the message is the most important thing in translation. The style is translated

after the message has been translated. In other words, the message takes precedence over the style. This is amply demonstrated in the definition of translation given by Eugene Nida, a reknown linguist and translator.

La traduction consiste à produire dans la langue d'arrivée l'équivalent naturel le plus proche du message de la langue de départ, d'abord, quant à la signification, puis au style (quoted in the preface to Mounin 1963:ix).

What the quotation says is that translation consists of producing in the target language, the nearest natural equivalent of the message in the source language, first in meaning and then in style.

3.2 Medical Texts

Medical texts are of utmost importance because they have to do with life. Their translations require accuracy. An unfaithful or incorrect translation can cause disaster, a situation which must be avoided. In translating medical texts, make sure you have good dictionaries at hand. Do not, however, be scared in translating medical texts. They are generally simple. The apparently difficult words have the same roots in English and French. This makes it quite easy to get the equivalents.

Let us translate a text. The terms are very simple.

3.3 Translation of a Medical Text

Un couple souffre de l'insomnie

« Docteur, nous avons fait cinquante kilomètres en voiture, ma femme et moi, pour venir vous consulter. Ni l'un ni l'autre n'avions jamais été malade un seul jour jusqu'à ces derniers mois où nous avons commencé à souffrir d'insomnies. Nous prenons des somnifères en comprimés quelquefois deux ou même davantage par nuit, mais nous ne pensons pas que ce soit là la vraie solution. J'ai commencé à avoir des douleurs au creux de l'estomac. On a

fait des radiographies, mais il n'y a rien d'anormal. Ma femme s'est mise à souffrir dans la région du cœur, mais un spécialiste l'a examinée sans trouver quoi que soit de défectueux. Nous sommes donc venus chez vous cet après-midi dans l'espoir que vous puissiez nous aider. »

C'était un couple sympathique, dans les soixante-dix ans, retraités de l'enseignement. Je ne les avais jamais vus auparavant. J'étais surchargé cet après-midi là et je sentais qu'il allait m'être difficile de les aider dans le peu de temps dont je pouvais disposer.

Après que j'eus posé quelques brèves questions à la femme et fait un examen superficiel, sans découvrir de trouble quelconque, elle sortit une lettre de sa poche : « Docteur, peut-être allez-vous penser que je suis stupide, mais nos ennuis paraissent avoir immédiatement suivi la réception de cette lettre. La voilà, voulez-vous la lire ? »

3.4 Model Translation : A couple suffers from insomnia

“Doctor, we have driven fifty kilometers by car, my wife and I to come and consult you. Neither of us had ever been sick for a single day until these few months when we started suffering from insomnia. We take sleeping tablets sometimes two or even more every night, but we don't think that is the real solution. I started having pains in my stomach. Xrays were taken, but there is nothing abnormal. My wife started experiencing pain around her heart, but a specialist examined her without finding any defect. We have therefore come to you this afternoon in the hope that you would be able to help us.

It was a nice couple in their seventies. They retired from teaching. I had never seen them before. I was overloaded with work that afternoon and I was feeling that it would be difficult for me to help them within the time at my disposal.

After asking the woman a few brief questions followed by a superficial examination, without discovering any problem whatsoever, she brought out a letter from her pocket.

“Doctor, perhaps you will think that I am stupid, but our problems seemed to have followed the reception of this letter. Here it is, you will like to read it ?”

3.5 Vocabulary

Note the following vocabulary and expressions :

insomnie	–	insomnia or sleeplessness
un comprimé	–	tablet
la radiographie	–	Xray
anormal	–	abnormal
un retraité	–	a retired person
sympathique	–	nice
auparavant	–	formerly
un ennui	–	a problem

Elle sortit une lettre de sa poche –

She brought out a letter from her pocket

Nous avons fait cinquante kilomètres en voiture –

We drove fifty kilometres by car.

surchargé – overloaded with work

un somnifère – sleeping pill

3.6 More Practical Translations

Many practical translations are not totally faithful to the original in a linguistic sense.

There are slight differences. Let us examine a few examples taken from *Things Fall Apart* and its French equivalent *Le monde s'effondre*, written by Chinua Achebe.

He is always in a hurry p.49 – Il est toujours plus pressé que le vent p.87

This sentence refers to Okonkwo's way of walking. The French adds an image which does not exist in the English original. **Plus pressé que le vent** means “more in a hurry than the wind”. The idea of wind and the comparison is not expressed in the original.

Even looking at various titles of translations, you can make similar observations:

- L'Enfant noir – The African Child by Camara Laye from Guinea
Noir is not “African”. It means black.
- Une vie de boy – House boy by Ferdinand Oyono who was a Camerounian.
The idea in **une vie** is not expressed in the English title.

There are even some where the reader may not be able to appreciate the original immediately through the translated version, unless he/she had known about it. A typical example is **L'âge d'or n'est pas pour demain**. This is the French version of *Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* written by Ayikwei Armah, a Ghanaian. Another example is **Le demagogue** whose original version is *A Man of the People* by Chinua Achebe. The literal translation of **L'âge d'or n'est pas pour demain** is “*Golden age is not for tomorrow*”. You must have observed that “beautiful” cannot be adequately translated. In fact the word does not exist in English. The correct English spelling is “beautiful” but the author chooses the wrong one for a specific purpose. Similarly, *The Palm Drinkard* by Amos Tutuola does not have a perfect version in French. The French version is **L'ivrogne** meaning *The Drunkard*. The original one is *Drinkard*, a word that does not exist in English.

You can observe many of such problems in *Une vie de boy* and *House Boy*. *Une vie de boy* was translated by John Reed:

1. Qu'est-ce que c'est?
Who is it ? (Instead of ‘What is it ?’) (in Ozidi Bariki 2000 p.46)
2. C'est ma bouche qui est fatiguée (*Une vie de boy*)
My mouth is tired (*House Boy*) (in Ozidi Bariki 2000 p.47) instead of “It is my mouth that is tired”.

You cannot afford these discrepancies in scientific or technological translations. If you do not translate the exact meaning in a scientific, medical or technology-based translation,

you may cause serious problems. For instance, translation involving the weather and a plane in the air at the airport or a medical operation has to be very faithful. Or else, it may cause disaster and loss of life. Try and learn the following examples of scientific translation:

fish breeding	–	la pisciculture
global warming	–	le réchauffement climatique
sound proofing	–	l'isolation phonique
earthquake	–	le tremblement de terre/le séisme/la secousse tellurique

4.0 Conclusion

You have learnt a lot on literary translation. Literary translation has peculiar problems that you cannot afford to have in technical, scientific or medical translation. The latter requires precision. Your vocabulary has been enriched greatly.

5.0 Summary

You also have an idea of scientific and technological translation. You cannot afford the type of liberty or freedom you have in literary translation. You also know the meaning of the following words : **tremblement de terre, isolation phonique, insomnie, radiographie, retraité.**

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

1. What is a literary text?
2. Cite a few cases of inconsistency in literary translation?
3. Why do scientific, medical and technical translations require accuracy all the time?
4. Give two synonyms of **le séisme** in French.
5. What is the meaning of **le pilule**. Look it up in your dictionary.

7.0 References

- Achebe, C. (1958) : *Things Fall Apart*, London, Heinemann Educational Books Ltd.
- Achebe, C. (1958): *Le monde s'effondre*, Dakar, Présence Africaine, translated by Michel Ligny.
- Bariki, K.O (1999) : « La traduction appliquée et le français dans les universités nigérianes », Ph.d thesis, Department of Modern European Languages, University of Ilorin.
- Bariki, O (2001) : « Rénover la traduction pédagogique à travers la traduction intralinguale » in *Translatio* No 1-2 Nouvelle Série xx pp19-27
- Bariki, O. (1999): “ La typologie textuelle en traduction” in M. Nnoruka (ed): *Cours de langue et de littérature françaises*, Ilorin pp 48- 59
- Israel, F. (ed.) (1990) : *La liberté en traduction*, Paris : Didier Erudition.

UNIT 6 TENTATIVE DE VOL À MAIN ARMÉE

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Tentative de vol à main armée
- 3.1 Vocabulary
- 3.2 Grammar
- 3.3 Related Expressions
- 3.4 Model Translation
- 3.5 Félicitons la police !
- 3.6 Model Translation : Let us congratulate the police !
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

You are going from theory into practical translation. A translation theory sets guidelines to help you in translating. In practical translation, you translate a text from English to French or vice versa. In this unit, you are going to deal with two passages on armed robbery in a bank (*Vol à main armée dans une banque* and *Félicitons la police!*). In the first text, salaries had just been paid and there was a crowd in the bank. Then, suddenly, armed robbers came in and went away with many things.

Fortunately, they were arrested with the active and quick response of the police. The courage of the police men were appreciated.

You will learn new words relating to robbery as you translate the text. Many of these words are useful to you daily: *mobile telephone, the police, pistol, the cashier, etc.*

In the second text to be translated, the story is similar. The thieves are arrested. The police is congratulated for doing a good job.

2.0 Objectives

The main objectives of this unit are to help you

- translate texts on armed robbery
- increase your vocabulary – *fonctionnaires, quartier, caissier, pistolet, bandit, malfaiteur, affolant, téléphone portable, policier, prévenir, le commissariat, empêcher de, chaleureusement, ordonner à, témoins, gérant, s'emparer de, ordinateur portable, l'entrée, masqué.*

Read and try to translate the texts on your own. You will get an explanation of some of the difficult words and expressions later. Start by looking up the difficult words as you attempt to translate.

3.0 Vol à main armée

On venait de payer les salaires des fonctionnaires. Il y avait donc une foule dans la seule banque. Mais juste une heure après l'ouverture de la banque, il est arrivé quelque chose d'inattendu. Des hommes qui s'adressaient calmement à l'un des caissiers de la banque ont changé subitement de ton et pistolets braqués, ils ont ordonné à tous les employés et clients de lever les bras. Comment ces hommes ont-ils sorti des pistolets de leur poche ? Personne ne savait comment ils sont entrés dans la banque avec ces objets. Mais une chose était évidente : c'étaient des bandits, des malfaiteurs.

C'était un moment affolant où les bandits obligeaient les gens de leur donner de l'argent. Ils ont emporté des sacs de toutes les dames. Heureusement, grâce à son téléphone portable, l'un des policiers en faction a prévenu ses collègues au commissariat. Les policiers ont réagi immédiatement et ont empêché les voleurs de continuer leur méfait. Les bandits ont été arrêtés (appréhendés). Toute la ville a remercié très chaleureusement les agents pour leur courage.

3.1 Vocabulary

A knowledge of the following vocabulary will help you to translate the passage. You will learn the nouns first:

le fonctionnaire	–	civil servant
le caissier	–	cashier
l'employé (masculine)	–	clerk, employee
le pistolet	–	pistol
le bandit	–	bandit
le malfaiteur	–	evil person
affolant	–	alarming
le commissariat	–	police station
sortir	–	to bring out
quelque chose d'inattendu	–	unexpected thing
subitement	–	suddenly
pistolet braqué	–	pistle pointed at him

3.2 Grammar

Observe the interesting use of « sorti » in the text. This verb is used very often in the past with the auxiliary “être”. e.g.

Il est sorti

Elle est sortie

It is, however, used here in a different sense. You observe the use of “ont” and not “sont”. In other words, the auxiliary is “avoir”. Now look at the translation.

Ces hommes ont sorti les pistolets de leur poche.

These men brought out pistols from their pockets.

Empêcher de

You observe also the use of “empêcher”: The verb is followed by “de”. You will therefore say:

Je l'ai empêché de venir

I prevented him from coming

It will be wrong to write: “Je l'ai empêché venir”

Ordonner à

Unlike “empêcher”, **ordonner** takes the preposition “à”. “Il ordonne à ses enfants de venir”. You have seen various interesting points in the text. You may now compare your translation with the model translation.

3.3 Related Expressions

braquer une arme sur	–	to point a weapon at
un braqueur de banque	–	a bank robber (male)
une braqueuse de banque	–	a bank robber (female)
menacer quelqu’un avec une arme	–	to pull one’s gun on

3.4 Model Translation

Attempted armed robbery

Salaries of civil servants had just been paid. There was a crowd in the bank. Barely one hour after opening, something unexpected happened. Some men who were speaking calmly to one of the cashiers suddenly changed their tone and ordered the employees and customers to raise their hands. How did the men bring out the pistols? No one knew how they entered the bank with these objects. One thing was, however, clear: they were robbers, evil people.

It was a terrible moment when the robbers forced people to give them money. They went away with the bags of all the women. Luckily, thanks to his mobile phone, one of the policemen called (informed) his colleagues at the police station. The policemen reacted immediately and prevented the thieves from carrying out their evil deed. The whole town thanked the policemen very much for their courage.

le téléphone mobile – mobile phone

You may also use the following words to mean “le téléphone mobile”: le portable, le mobile, le cellulaire.

3.5 Félicitons la police !

Lundi matin, la Banque du Nigéria était la cible d'une attaque à main armée. Dix hommes et trois femmes masqués ont forcé l'entrée de la banque. Il ne restait que les grands gérants de la banque et certaines caissières. Les braqueurs se sont emparés de beaucoup d'argent, d'ordinateurs portables et d'une voiture qu'ils abandonneront plus tard.

La police arrive deux heures après le vol, lance un avis de recherche et un appel à témoins. La police trouve de nombreuses empreintes qui leur seraient utiles pour les enquêtes.

Deux jours après, les braqueurs sont arrêtés. Les autorités de la banque étaient tellement contentes qu'ils ont organisé une grande fête pour dire merci aux employés et à la police.

s'emparer de	–	to grab
un caissier	–	a male cashier
une caissière	–	a female cashier

3.6 Model Translation : Let us congratulate the police !

On Monday morning, the Bank of Nigeria, was the target of an attack by armed robbers. Two men and three women all of whom were masked forced their way through the entrance of the bank. There were only the big bank managers and some female cashiers. The robbers went away with a lot of money, laptops and a car which they were to abandon later.

The police arrived two hours after the raid, embarked on a search and an appeal for witnesses. The police saw many footprints which were useful for the interrogations.

Two days later, the robbers were arrested. The authorities of the bank were so happy that they organized a big feast to thank the clerks and police.

4.0 Conclusion

You have translated a text on armed robbery. You have learnt another meaning and use of “sortir”. Try and recall some of the expressions used in the text any time you hear or read of robbery.

5.0 Summary

You have learnt many new words like **téléphone mobile, affolant, commissariat, caissier, caissière, s’emparer de, braqueur de banque, braqueuse de banque.**

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences into French.

1. I took a pencil out of my pocket.
2. They are armed robbers
3. She prevented me from going.
4. They ordered us to raise up our hands.
5. Look at the mobile telephone.
6. My salary has just been paid.
7. They were evil people.
8. The people thanked the police men.
9. The armed robbers went away with all the handbags.
10. The community organized a feast for the police

7.0 Reference

Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners New Edition
2007, London: A & C Black Publishers.

Mounin, G (196): *Les problèmes théoriques de la traduction*,
Paris : Gallimard.

Vinay, J. P. et Darbelnet, J. (1977) : *Stylistique comparée du français et de l’anglais*, Paris : Didier Erudition.

UNIT 7

UN PETIT DRAME

Table of contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Un petit drame
 - 3.1 Vocabulary
 - 3.2 Expressions
 - 3.3 Points of Grammar
 - 3.4 Model Translation
 - 3.5 Colloquialism
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

In unit 6, it was the translation of a text on armed robbery. But, here you are in a family setting. The family is planning to travel and there is a little quarrel that follows. It deals with the usual quarrels among children in the home. As you translate it, your knowledge of French will improve.

2.0 Objectives

It is hoped that you will be able to increase your vocabulary and expression through the translation of the text.

The following words should be of interest to you:

- *le pique-nique, casse-croûte, la télé, veuve, fainéant, se détendre, têtu, froter.*

There are expressions too : *casser la tête à quelqu'un, Dites donc, en voilà assez, faire le ménage, tondre le gazon, brûler la chandelle, rater le train, je reviens à mon dire*

- Some grammatical points relating to the parts of the body among others will be highlighted.

Read the text and translate, using all available means of help at your disposal

3.0 Un petit drame

C'était un vendredi. Mme Lansani, une veuve travailleuse, et ses enfants ont décidé de pique-niquer à la campagne. Il fallait acheter des casse-croûtes pour le pique-nique. Mme Lansani est donc sortie très tôt le matin pour en acheter.

Elle se demandait si ses enfants pourraient vite faire le ménage avant le départ. Mais, les enfants avaient tous dit : "Mama, ne vous en faites pas, nous aurons fait le ménage avant votre retour".

Mme Lansani est donc partie. A son retour, elle a découvert que les enfants n'ont pas tenu leur promesse. Voici le petit drame qui a suivi.

- Mme Lansani – Vous vous querellez, vous n'avez pas tenu votre promesse, vous voulez renoncer à ce pique-nique ?
- Les enfants – Mais non !
- Mme Lansani – Qu'est-ce que vous faites alors ?
- Shade – C'est la faute de Tounde. Tiens, il se repose au lieu de travailler.
- Tounde – Maman, c'est pas vrai. Moi, j'ai bien travaillé, j'ai fini de laver la voiture, j'ai nettoyé les fauteuils. J'ai fait la vaisselle. J'ai même tondu le gazon. Je suis en train de me détendre un peu devant la télé.
- Shade – menteur ! Maman, tu vois combien il est paresseux. C'est un fainéant. Il se détend à 10 heures du matin !
- Tounde – Mais pourquoi pas ? J'ai fait mon travail. J'ai travaillé toute la nuit. En effet, j'ai brûlé la chandelle. Et puis, je me suis déjà lavé, habillé et coiffé.
(En s'adressant à Shade, il dit)

- Toi, tu n'es jamais prête. Toujours paresseuse. Et même têtue aussi !
- Shade – Et alors ?
- Tounde – J'ai même frotté le plancher avec une brosse dur. Tu ne fais rien. Je reviens à mon dire : tu es d'une paresse incurable.
- Shade – Maman, tu vois, il m'insulte. Je vais lui casser la tête.
- Mme Lansani – Dites donc, ça suffit ! Courez tous les deux au magasin me chercher du lait. On quitte ici dans une vingtaine de minutes. Que tout le monde soit prêt. Dépêchons-nous, sinon on risque de rater le train.

Ces dernières paroles de Mme Lansani ont marqué la fin de la querelle comme les deux enfants ne voulaient pas rater cette merveilleuse occasion de pique-niquer.

3.1 Vocabulary

Below are some of the words that could be a source of problem to you

- le casse-croûte – snack
- la télé – TV, the 'telly' (Colloquial)
- “La télé” is a colloquial form of ‘la télévision’ i.e. a television set. “Television” also has a tinge of colloquialism when it is used to mean “television set”. “Le téléviseur” is more appropriate when we want to talk of a television set.
- une veuve – a widow
- un fainéant – idler, sluggard
- se détendre – to relax
- têtu – stubborn
- frotter le plancher avec une brosse dur – to scrub the floor

3.2 Expressions

Know the following expressions

faire le ménage	–	to do the house work
tondre le gazon	–	cut the grass
“Le gazon” refers mainly to “grass that is fore and short”. It can also mean “lawn”.		
casser la tête à quelqu’un	–	to crack someone’s skull
brûler la chandelle par les deux bouts	–	to burn the candle at both ends
rater le train	–	to miss the train
Dites donc, ça suffit !	–	Look here, I say that’s enough!
Je reviens à mon dire	–	I reaffirm what I have said

3.3 Points of Grammar

Casser la tête à quelqu’un

The expression means to “break someone’s skull”

Je vais lui casser la tête means “I am going to break his/her skull”.

The pronoun is *lui* and not *le* or *la* because of the preposition *à* – *casser la tête à* quelqu’un.

Note also this important fact:

You use the definite article to represent the *possessive adjective* when you are referring to *parts of the body*. Hence you will say:

J’ai mal au pied	–	My leg is hurting
Elle se lave le visage	–	She is washing her face

In a similar vein, you must have observed that you cannot say: “*Je vais casser ta tête*” to mean “I am going to break your head/skull”. You will say “*Je vais te casser la tête*” to mean “I will break your head/skull”.

While English requires the use of a possessive adjective, French requires a personal pronoun or a reflexive pronoun and an article. Hence the following sentences:

Il s’est cassé la tête	–	He broke his head/skull
------------------------	---	-------------------------

Not: Il a cassé sa tête

Le coiffeur me coupe les cheveux – The barber is cutting/cuts my hair

Not : Le coiffeur a coupé mes cheveux

Un vendredi

Remember the simple rule that the indefinite article indicates an unspecified “Friday”. However, if the definite article *le* were used, it will mean “Fridays”, thereby implying repetition. Examine the following sentences:

On se verra lundi – We shall see on Monday
On se voit le lundi – We see/meet on Mondays

Tutoyer/vouvoyer

In French, “tutoyer” means the use of “tu” when addressing someone. “Tutoyer quelqu’un” means to use “tu” when speaking to someone. You use it for familiar people. In French, children use “tu” and not “vous” for their parents. “Vouvoyer quelqu’un” is to address somebody as “vous”.

Read what Collins Robert French Dictionary Concise Edition (2005: 550) says:

There are no hard-and-fast rules about when to use “tu” and “vous” to address people. Small children can be addressed as “tu”, and will often reply using the “tu” form as well.

In formal contexts among young people of the same age, “tu” is often used even at first meeting.

Among the older generation, “vous” is standard until people know each other well. As a general rule for non-native speakers, “vous” should always be used to address adults until the other person uses “tu” or asks permission to do so.

Tutoiement and **vouvoiement** are the noun forms of the verbs “tutoyer” and “vouvoyer”.

3.4 Model Translation

A Little Drama

It was a Friday. Mrs. Lansani, the hardworking widow, and her children decided to go on a picnic in the countryside. They needed to buy snacks for the picnic. Thus, Mrs. Lansani went out very early in the morning to buy them.

She wondered if her children could quickly take care of the household chores before their departure. But, all the children said: “Mum, don’t worry; we will have done the household chores before leaving”.

So Mrs. Lansani left. On her return, she discovered that the children had not kept their promise. Below is the little drama that followed.

- Mrs. Lansani – You are quarrelling, you haven’t kept your word, do you want to forgo the picnic?
- The children – Of course not!
- Mrs. Lansani – What are you doing then?
- Shade – It is the fault of Tunde. Look at him, he’s resting instead of working.
- Tunde – Mum, it’s not true. I have been working hard, I have finished washing the car, I cleaned the armchairs. I washed the plates. I even cut the grass. I am relaxing a little in front of the television.
- Shade – A liar! Mum, you see how lazy he is. He’s an idler! He’s relaxing at 10am!
- Tunde – Why not? I have done my work. I worked all night. In fact, I burnt the midnight oil. And here I am again, I have already taken my bath, I am dressed up. I have combed my hair.

- (Talking to Shade, he says)
 As for you, you're never ready. Always lazy. And even stubborn!
- Shade – And so what?
- Tunde – I even scrubbed the floor. You don't do anything. I'll say it again: your laziness is incurable. (You are incurably lazy).
- Shade – Mum, you see? He is insulting me. I will break his head.
- Mrs. Lansani – Look here, I say that's enough. Run, both of you, to the shop to look for milk. We're leaving here in twenty minutes. Let everyone get ready. Let's hurry up, otherwise we stand the risk of missing the train.

The last words of Mrs. Lansani marked the end of the quarrel as both children did not want to miss the wonderful opportunity to picnic (to have a picnic).

3.5 Colloquialism

Did you observe the use of colloquial language in the English translation? Expressions like “we're”, “don't”, “let's”, “that's”, “he's” are all colloquial expressions you use with people that are very familiar to you. You can use these expressions among family members (as you can see in the translation) and among friends. You cannot use them in formal circumstances like interviews for jobs and letters of application.

The French do not have many expressions of this type. The only one you can see clearly in the text is “c'est pas vrai” instead of “ce n'est pas vrai”. You use “c'est pas vrai” in informal speech.

4.0 Conclusion

You have learnt very many expressions, words and grammatical points through the translation of the text. You know more about the very crucial used of “tu” and “vous”.

5.0 Summary

The numerous new words and grammar will assist you greatly. Study them and use them constantly.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

A. Translate the following into French

1. He broke his arm.
2. Shade sprained her ankles.
3. My mother cut my nails.
4. I washed my hair this afternoon.
5. She broke her arm.

- B. 1. Write out situations where you think you will be free to use “tu” while addressing someone.
2. Make a clear difference between **tutoiement** and **vouvoiement**.

7.0 References

Collins French Dictionary (2006), Williams Collins Sons and Co. Ltd. and *Dictionnaires Le Robert* 1981, 1990, Harper Collins Publishers and *Dictionnaires Le Robert* 1996, 2000 2003, 2006.

Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (2007) Malaysia A&C Black Publishers Ltd, Macmillan Publishers Ltd 2007 and Martin Shovel 2007.

Vinay, J. P. et Darbelnet, J. (1977) : *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais*, Paris : Didier Erudition.

UNIT 8

UN COMPTE COURANT OU UN COMPTE D'ÉPARGNE?

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Un compte courant ou un compte d'épargne ?
- 3.1 Vocabulary
- 3.2 Venir de
- 3.3 Chercher à
- 3.4 Other Related Words or Expressions
- 3.5 Model Translation
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

Unit 7 dealt with a little drama in the home. In this unit, you are being introduced to some useful words and expressions relating to money and banking. The title is “A current account or a savings account?”

2.0 Objectives

On successful completion of this chapter, the student should be able to:

- enrich his/her vocabulary: *être embauché, société, toucher, compte bancaire, compte courant, compte d'épargne, grignoter*
- know more expressions such as : *être dans le rouge, avoir de l'argent de côté, garder une poire pour la soif*
- identify some grammatical points in the passage

3.0 Read the text on “Un compte courant ou un compte d’épargne?”

Je viens d’être embauchée par une société internationale. C’est l’une des meilleures sociétés en Afrique de l’Ouest, même dans toute l’Afrique. Dans quelques semaines, je toucherai mon premier salaire. J’ai besoin d’ouvrir un compte. J’ai un choix, soit d’ouvrir un compte courant ou un compte d’épargne. Entretemps j’ouvrirai un compte d’épargne puisqu’on nous demande de faire des économies.

La plupart des mes compatriotes ne veulent pas ouvrir le compte d’épargne parce que l’épargne est souvent grignotée par l’inflation. Mais, il y a une vérité incontestable qu’il ne faut pas oublier. Il faut mettre de l’argent de côté. Ce n’est pas sage d’être toujours au rouge. Tout le monde doit organiser sa vie et garder une poire pour la soif.

3.1 Vocabulary

Before you translate the text, get to know some of the words which may pose problem to you.

la société – a company (In this context, ‘la société’ does not mean ‘society’)

In this text *société* and *compagnie* are synonyms; they have the same meaning.

être embauché – to be employed (The author of this text is female, so she uses ‘embauchée’).

un compte – a bank account

un compte d’épargne – a savings account

un compte courant – a current account

grignoter – to erode gradually

L’épargne est souvent grignotée par l’inflation means “Savings are often eroded by inflation”.

avoir de l’argent de côté – to save up money

être au rouge – to be in the red

When your account is in the red, it means you have spent more money than is available.

garder une poire pour la soif – to have something for a rainy day

This is an example of equivalence. Remember equivalence deals with stock expressions like idiomatic expressions and proverbs. A few examples are given you. You may commit them to memory and use them at the appropriate time.

There could still be some difficult words for you. If that is so, look them up in your dictionary before you embark on the translation exercise.

3.2 venir de

Venir de expresses the past recent (**le passé récent**). It expresses an action that has just taken place. Read the following examples as you appreciate its use:

Je viens d’être embauché – I have just been employed
Je viens d’être agressé – I have just been mugged
La femme vient d’être promue – The woman has just been promoted

You must have observed the use of the passive voice (**le passif** ou **la voix passive**) in all the examples. Do not be misled to think that venir de must always be followed by ‘être’ and then the participe passé

What is worth observing and retaining is that **venir de** is always followed by the infinitive as is evidenced in the use of être in the examples above. Read the following examples:

Mon ami vient de partir. – My friend has just left.
Nous venons de commencer le travail. – We have just started the work.
Je viens d’apprendre la nouvelle. – I have just heard the news.

3.3 Chercher à

Chercher à faire quelque chose – to try to do something. A synonym of *chercher à* in this context is **essayer de**.

Just like **venir de**, *chercher à* is followed by the infinitive (l'infinitif).

A few sentences should be useful.

Il cherche à atteindre son objectif objective – He is trying to attain his objective

Nous cherchons à finir le devoir – We are trying to finish the assignment

3.4 Other Related Words or Expressions

You may further enrich your knowledge of banking terms and expressions. Try and use them in your daily life. Try and recall them any time you have reason to go to the bank.

banking – les opérations de banque, les affaires de banque

banker – banquier

faire des études bancaires – to study banking

avoir un compte en banque – to have a bank account

les guichets de la banque – the cashier's desk

relevé de compte – bank statement

Depending on the context, to “save” could be *gagner* or *économiser* e.g. He saved petrol – Il a économisé du carburant

Going by plane will save you ten hours – Vous gagnerez dix heures en avion

Talking about a computer file, *sauvegarder* is the appropriate word for “save”.

You have known most of the difficult words and expressions. Now translate the text.

3.5 Model Translation

A current account or a savings account?

I have just been employed by an international company. It is one of the best companies in West Africa and even in the whole of Africa. In a few weeks, I will earn my first salary. I need to open a bank account. I have a choice: either to open a current account or a

savings account. In the meantime, I will open a savings account as the government is trying to encourage savings.

Most of my compatriots do not want to open savings account as savings are often eroded by inflation. But there is an undeniable truth which must not be forgotten. One must save some money. It is not wise to be always in the red. Everyone has to plan his life and keep something for the rainy day.

4.0 Conclusion

You have learnt a lot of words and expressions on money. Try to recall them each time you enter a bank. You may write them in a piece of paper and glance through them in the bank.

5.0 Summary

The text is very useful. You can now translate some texts involving finance.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences into French

1. You save a thousand naira if you buy a dozen shirts
2. We have just eaten.
3. My bank account is in the red.
4. He has money in the bank.
5. The hospital has a blood bank.
6. I drive very slowly in order to save fuel.
7. My father is a banker.
8. I am studying banking in the University.
9. I want to open a savings account.
10. I have a current account.

6.0 References

Coffman, M. E. (1973): *French Grammar*, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company.

- Hervey, S. and Higgins, I. (1992): *Thinking Translation. A course in Translation Method. French to English*, London and New York: Routledge.
- Ojo, S.A. (2002): *A Comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*, Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Vercollier, A. ; Vercollier, C. and Bourlier, K. (2006) : *Difficultés expliquées du français, for English Speakers*, Ibadan : Clé & Spectrum.

UNIT 9

UNE EXPÉRIENCE EXTRÊMEMENT PÉNIBLE

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Une expérience extrêmement pénible
- 3.1 Vocabulary
- 3.2 Model Translation
- 3.3 Other Related Vocabulary
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

This unit has to do with the translation of a painful experience. The text deals with an accident on the road. The accident was very bad. The accident victims were taken to a University Teaching Hospital by passers-by. A lawyer who had just been called to the bar died, thus causing much sorrow to his village.

2.0 Objectives

This chapter proposes to further expand your vocabulary and knowledge of grammar through translation. As you carefully study it, you should be able to:

- acquire the following vocabulary: *insomnie, une dizaine, cadet, indemne, malédiction, rumeurs.*
- acquire new expressions: *inscrire au barreau, être brûlé vif, porter une barbe, succomber à*
- identify some grammatical elements in the passage
- acquire other words and expressions related to the theme of the text

Read and translate the text. Make use of your dictionaries and grammar books. Consult your friends who are students of French or your French teacher if the need arises.

3.0 Une expérience extrêmement pénible

Gagou souffre d'insomnie depuis une quinzaine de jours. C'est la suite d'une expérience extrêmement pénible qui s'est produite tout récemment. Il s'agit d'un accident de la route dont elle a été témoin lors d'un voyage.

C'était un lundi. L'avion de Gagou venait d'atterrir dans la capitale nigérienne et elle allait en ville dans une voiture quand un accident mortel a eu lieu. Deux mercedes étaient entrées en collision. D'après les témoins oculaires, l'incident a été provoqué par la route fort accidentée. L'un des chauffeurs voulait éviter un nid-de-poule. Et les victimes ? Il y en avait trois, mais un jeune homme a succombé à ses blessures.

Les deux autres étaient pratiquement indemnes sauf une écorchure au bras pour Lata. C'était vraiment un moment pénible. Les passants ont tout fait pour aider les victimes. On a emmené les victimes au Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, plus précisément au service d'urgence où elles étaient hospitalisées. Mais les efforts désespérés n'ont rien changé. Le jeune homme décédé était bien bâti, beau et portant une barbe. Sa mort fut une mauvaise nouvelle pour son village où il était le seul avocat. Il s'est inscrit au barreau il y avait à peine trois mois. Les villageois disaient même que son sort était pareil à celui de son cadet – un médecin qui avait péri, brûlé vif dans un accident d'avion !

Quel malheur ! Le bruit court que cette famille était bel et bien victime d'une malédiction dont la source reste inconnue.

3.1 Vocabulary

Une expérience extrêmement pénible	–	harrowing experience
Le bruit court que	–	Rumour has it that
la suite	–	sequel, follow-up
être témoin de	–	to witness

les victimes de l'accident	–	the accident victims
indemne	–	unhurt
cadet	–	younger brother
le sort	–	the fate

(Note that '*le sort*' is a noun and differs from the third person singular of the verb '*sortir*')

la malédiction	–	curse, spell
les efforts désespérés (m)	–	frantic efforts
la route accidentée	–	the unevenness of the ground
accident mortel	–	fatal accident

“Fatal accident” means death was recorded. It does not mean “ghastly accident”.

La capitale nigérienne – The Nigerian capital.

Note that the adjective here refers to the country called Niger and NOT Nigeria. If it referred to Nigeria, the author would have said La capitale nigériane.

Note also *nigérienne* (féminine) has two n, but *nigériane* has just one. In the masculine form, both have just one ‘n’:

L’homme nigérien

L’homme nigérian

Une mercedes – car are feminine because the generic term “la voiture” is feminine. Thus one would say ‘une peugeot’, ‘une toyota’, etc.

Quinzaine

Quinzaine means fifteen or about fifteen. *Quinzaine de jours* means “a fortnight” or “about two weeks”. In French two weeks is fifteen days, hence *quinze jours*. Similarly, a week is NOT seven days as in English but eight days – *huit jours*:

On se verra dans huit jours – We shall see in a week’s time

Les victimes – The word is feminine, hence “elles étaient hospitalisées”. The accord of gender and number must be respected.

Expressions

brûlé vif	–	burnt to death
-----------	---	----------------

porter une barbe	–	to have a beard
s’inscrire au barreau	–	to be called to the bar
succomber à	–	to die from

We have characteristically avoided explaining some of the difficult words, expressions and grammatical points. The idea here is to encourage you to master the use of your dictionaries and grammar books on your own.

Dictionaries are invaluable assets in translation in particular and in your studies as a whole. Make them your good companions. Note: You need dictionaries and not just a dictionary. Do your best to procure a minimum of three dictionaries: a bilingual French/English dictionary (*un dictionnaire bilingue*), an entirely French dictionary (*un dictionnaire unilingue français*) and an entirely English dictionary (*un dictionnaire unilingue anglais*).

Do not underestimate the importance of your English dictionary. If you do not understand an English word, the French equivalent may mean nothing to you. Taking our text as an example, look at “insomnia” in the English dictionary, if you do not know its meaning.

Now attempt the translations and then compare your translation with the model translation.

Do not be discouraged if you make many mistakes. Remember the French proverb which says *Petit à petit l’oiseau fait son nid*. This means literally “little by little a bird makes its nest”. In actual fact, it means “slow and steady wins the race”.

Another useful expression is *En forgeant, on devient forgeron* – *Practice makes perfect*.

Yet another very important thing you must always bear in mind is this: there are many different possible translations of a particular text. Two good translators are likely to use different words to convey the same meaning of a text.

Where you are absolutely in doubt or at crossroads, seek help from a colleague or teacher of French

3.2 Model Translation

A harrowing experience

Gagou has been suffering from insomnia for about two weeks. It is as a result of a harrowing experience which took place very recently. She saw a road accident in one of her numerous journeys. It was a Monday. Gagou's plane had just landed in the Nigerien capital, and she was on her way to town in a car when a fatal accident occurred. It involved two Mercedes Benz that collided.

The accident victims? There were three of them, but a young man died from serious wounds. The others two were virtually unhurt except for Lata who had graze in her arm.

It was a very painful moment. Passers-by did all they could to help the accident victims. They took the casualties to the University Teaching Hospital, the Emergency Unit to be precise. But the frantic efforts did nothing. The young dead man was solidly built, handsome and wore a beard. His death was bad news for his village where he was the only lawyer. He was called to bar barely three months ago. The villagers were even saying that his fate was like that of his younger brother – a medical doctor who was burnt to death in a plane crash.

What a misfortune! Rumor had it that the family was a victim of a spell whose source was unknown.

3.3 Other Related Vocabulary

Il est mort accidentellement – He died in an accident

This an example of transposition. Refer to FRE 301. It is a transposition because 'accidentellement' is an adverb and 'accident' is a noun.

Transposition means that a word changes its grammatical category or part of speech in the course of translation.

avoir un accident – to have an accident
assurance (f) accidents – accident insurance

accident de la circulation	}	–	road accident
accident de la route		–	domestic accidents i.e.
accidents domestiques		–	accidents in the home
sa cadette		–	his/her younger sister
L’homme portait une barbe		–	L’homme était barbu – The man had a beard. The man was bearded.

The following words should be of interest to you:

Écorcher = égratigner = to graze.

Elle s’est écorchée les genoux = She grazed her knees

4.0 Conclusion

You have learnt a lot of expressions and words. Study them very hard and use them regularly.

5.0 Summary

The numerous words and expressions will help you immensely. Recall some of them: succomber à, écorcher, expérience pénible.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate

1. We met about ten days ago
2. I had just arrived at school
3. He died of hunger
4. The potbellied man eats too much
5. Accident insurance is a necessity
6. The rumours of a coup are rife
7. There were many casualties during the accidents
8. I took her to the Casualty Department
9. Tyndale, a well-known translator, was burnt to death.
10. She grazed her elbows.

7.0 References

- Coffman, M. E. (1973): *French Grammar*, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company.
- Hatim, B. and Mason, I. (1990): *Discourse and the Translator*, New York: Longman.
- Ojo, S.A. (2002): *A Comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*, Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Vercollier, A. ; Vercollier, C. and Bourlier, K. (2006) : *Difficultés expliquées du français, for English Speakers*, Ibadan : Clé & Spectrum.

UNIT 10 COUPÉE DE LA RÉALITÉ? (I)

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	Coupée de la réalité (I)
3.1	Vocabulary
3.2	Grammar
3.3	Conseiller à, renoncer à,
3.4	Tenir de
3.5	Celui-ci
3.6	Model Translation
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor-marked Assignment
7.0	References

1.0 Introduction

This unit introduces you to the translation of a very interesting short story. It deals with a young girl, Okuboere, whose dogged ambition paid off. She was inspired by the laudable work her father did as a doctor. She was not without her moments of confusion and discouragement. But this is just part I.

2.0 Objectives

This unit is particularly rich with new words and expressions. On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to know:

- a variety of new words e.g *géniteur, défi, optique, retentissant, pédiatre, épargner, celui-ci*.
- more new expressions such as *tenir de, tantôt ... tantôt, courbé par l'âge*.
- the use of *conseiller à, renoncer à*.

Read the text entitled “*Coupée de la réalité ? (I)*”. This is the first part of the story. Make sure your dictionaries are very close by.

3.0 Coupée de la réalité? (I)

Okuboere avait son rêve comme toute autre jeune fille – celui de devenir pédiatre un jour. Elle voulait tenir de son géniteur. Son père est un homme intelligent. Il est très vieux maintenant, courbé par l’âge. Mais Okuboere s’est inspirée des efforts louables de celui-ci qui traitait les malades. Mais il existait d’innombrables défis à relever. Ce désir pourrait-il se transformer en réalité ? La question s’imposait, car les échecs des années passées avaient déjà retardé de cinq ans la réalisation de son ambition.

Inquiets, les parents ont conseillé à Okuboere de changer d’optique. On lui a proposé d’être infirmière. Mais c’était un refus total, un non retentissant de sa part. Elle était bien décidée à poursuivre son unique rêve. Néanmoins, des moments de confusion ne l’ont pas épargnée. Elle se laissait tantôt décourager tantôt encourager par son environnement.

3.1 Vocabulary

Some of the difficult words will be explained here. Learn and keep them at your finger tips. Make use of them at the slightest opportunity. Some of them are particularly useful when you are in a hospital.

le géniteur	–	father
le défi	–	challenge
l’optique (f)	–	perspective
le pédiatre	–	paediatrician. The American spelling is “pediatrician”. Similarly, “paediatrics” is British spelling, while “pediatrics” American.
retentissant	–	resounding
distraire	–	to distract
tantôt tantôt	–	sometimes sometimes

3.2 Grammar

3.3 Conseiller à, renoncer à

Conseiller à means ‘to advise’ or ‘to recommend to’. Note the use of the preposition ‘à’. Thus, *I advise Tunde to come* will be translated as *Je conseille à Tunde de venir*.

As a result of the preposition *à*, *I advise him to come* will be *Je lui conseille de venir*. It will be very wrong to say *Je le conseille de venir*.

In the same vein, to renounce or to give up is *renoncer à*

J’ai renoncé au mariage – I have given up the idea of marriage

J’ai renoncé au tabac – I have given up smoking

The use of ‘*au*’ is necessitated by the masculine article ‘*le*’ that should precede mariage and tabac.

Remember: *à + le = au*

You should recall the following verbs too:

obéir à – to obey

I obey my father – J’obéis à mon père

I obey him – Je lui obéis

pardoner à – to pardon

I forgive my mother – Je pardonne à ma mère

I pardon her – Je lui pardonne

3.4 tenir de

Tenir de means to ‘take after’ referring to a parent.

Il tient de son père – He takes after his father.

A synonym will be *ressembler à*

If there are still words and expressions you do not understand, look them up in your dictionary.

3.5 Celui-ci

Celui-ci means the latter. *Celui-là* means the former. In the sense used in this context, they – i.e. *celui-ci* and *celui-là* – refer to the persons mentioned earlier. They follow an order. In that order, **celui-ci** is the person just mentioned or mentioned second while

celui-là had been mentioned earlier. They are both compound forms of demonstrative pronouns. They are said to be compound because two different words are joined together.

The feminine forms are **celle-ci** and **celle-là**

Observe the following sentences :

Lequel des romans aimez-vous ?

Which of the novels do you like?

J'ai mieux celui-ci, mais celui-là est intéressant aussi.

I prefer this one, but that one there is also interesting.

Alice et Aishat sont des sœurs. Celle-là (Alice) est chrétienne ; celle-ci(Aishat) est musulmane.

Alice and Aishat are sisters. The former (Alice) is a Christian; the latter (Aishat) is a Muslim.

Note:

Elle est chrétienne – She is a Christian

Elle est musulmane – She is a Muslim

It is wrong to write:

Elle est **une** chrétienne

Elle est **une** musulmane.

However, you can write:

Elle est une bonne chrétienne.

Elle est une bonne musulmane.

The indefinite article 'une' is necessary because of the adjective 'bonne'.

Now translate the text.

3.6 Model translation

Cut off from reality? (I)

Okuboere had her dream just like any other girl. She wanted to be a paediatrician one day. She wanted to take after her father. Her father is an intelligent man. He is very old now, bowed with age. But Okuboere was inspired by the laudable efforts of the latter who treated sick people. But there were uncountable challenges to overcome. Could this desire be transformed into reality? The

question was necessary, for the failures of the previous years had slowed down the realization of this ambition by five years.

Worried, the parents have advised Okuboere to change her perspective. She was advised to be a nurse. But she refused totally with a resounding no. She had firmly made up her mind to pursue the only dream she had. However, she was not spared some moments of confusion. Sometimes she would be discouraged by the environment, but some other times she would be encouraged by it.

4.0 Conclusion

You have learnt many expressions and words like *retentissant, tantôt ... tantôt, le pédiatre, épargner, tenir de, défi*. You have also learnt the meanings of *celui-ci, celui-là, celle-ci, celle-là*. You know how to use them also.

5.0 Summary

You certainly can make correct sentences with *obéir à, pardonner à, tenir de, renoncer à*.

You must go through this passage. Hold tenaciously to those great ideas you have. Work very hard on them to attain success.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences

1. My mother has always advised her children to work hard.
2. Sometimes, I feel like dancing, and sometimes I simply feel like listening to music.
3. I have decided not to travel.
4. She was advised to be a teacher.
5. Write a short story involving two people. Use *celui-ci* and *celui-là* as the occasional demands.

7.0 References

- Coffman, M. E. (1973): *French Grammar*, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company.
- Ojo, S.A. (2002): *A Comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*, Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Van Hoof, H. (1989) : *Traduire de l'anglais, théorie et pratique*, Paris : Editions Duculot.
- Vercollier, A. ; Vercollier, C. and Bourlier, K. (2006) : *Difficultés expliquées du français for English Speakers*, Ibadan : Clé & Spectrum.

UNIT 11 COUPÉE DE LA RÉALITÉ? (II)

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Coupée de la réalité (II)
- 3.1 Vocabulary
- 3.2 Medical Terms
- 3.3. Expressions
- 3.4 Related Words/Expressions
- 3.5 Model Translation
- 3.6 Translation Procedures
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

This is the concluding part of “Coupée de la réalité ?” which you translated in Unit 10. The text is rich in ideas and language. The unit also recalls Translations procedures generally. **Equivalence** is singled out for further explanations.

2.0 Objectives

This unit has very useful words and expressions. As you successfully translate the text and study the notes, you should know:

- a variety of new words : *distraindre, sobriquet, affubler, aiguillonner, imminence, paupières, surnom, ce dernier, celui-ci, épineux*
- more new expressions such as *brûler la chandelle par les deux bouts, en son for intérieur, décrocher une mention, affubler quelqu'un d'un sobriquet*

- a few medical terms e.g. *ausculter, palper*

3.0 Coupée de la réalité? (II)

Pour réaliser son désir, elle a choisi le chemin de l'honneur. Le chemin d'honneur n'est pas toujours facile. C'est souvent un chemin épineux. Okuboere a travaillé avec plus d'ardeur que jamais, brûlant la chandelle par les deux bouts dès le début de l'année scolaire jusqu'à la fin. Cette fois-ci, elle s'est laissée entièrement dévorer par les flammes de son rêve.

C'était la médecine ou rien. Elle a donc renoncé à tout plaisir qui pourrait la distraire de son ambition. Cette attitude a été condamnée par ses amis. On l'a donc affublée du sobriquet "coupée de la réalité".

Mais Okuboere connaissait une joie certaine en son for intérieur. Elle assimilait mieux le cours. Et l'approche des examens, l'espoir d'entamer le voyage vers la médecine la galvanisait. Quand les résultats sont sortis, elle a décroché une mention très bien. Enfin, la fortune lui souriait, et on commençait à chanter ses louanges.

Quant à Okuboere, elle vivait déjà dans l'avenir. Elle s'imaginait dans un hôpital pour examiner les malades, pour ausculter et retourner les paupières des malades tout en prenant les pouls. Le surnom – " coupée de la réalité" – est resté, mais Okuboere est adulée.

3.1 Vocabulary

le sobriquet – nickname

le surnom – nickname

Le 'surnom' and 'surname' are typical examples of *faux amis*.

Don't be misled by the physical appearance! "Faux amis" means 'false friends'. In English, you may talk of 'cognate'.

l'imminence (f) – imminence

galvaniser – to spur on

épineux – thorny

3.2 Medical Terms

ausculter – to feel the breathing (of a patient). This is a medical term.

Le médecin m’a ausculté – The doctor listened to my heart beat.

examiner – to feel. ‘Palpate’ is another medical term meaning “to examine part of the body by touching”.

3.3 Expressions:

affubler quelqu’un d’un sobriquet – to attach a nickname to someone

en son for intérieur – in his heart of hearts

en mon for intérieur – in my heart of hearts

décrocher une mention – to get a distinction

3.4 Related Words/Expressions

Mention in the university or secondary school means ‘grade’.

mention très honorable – with distinction (used for Ph.D. candidates)

mention très bien – A or A+; First Class Honours

mention bien – B+ or A (in the secondary school)
second class upper (in the university)

mention assez bien – second class lower

mention passable – pass

Mon enfant a très bien fait à l’examen, il est reçu avec mention
– My son did very well at the examination, he passed with distinction.

Mon enfant est reçu sans mention – My son got a pass

3.5 Model Translation

Cut off from reality? (II)

To accomplish her desire, she opted for a honourable way. The honourable way is not always easy. It is often a thorny way. Thus Okoboere worked harder than ever, burning the midnight oil

from the beginning of the academic year till the end. This time she was completely consumed by the flames of her dream. It was medicine or nothing! She therefore gave up all pleasures which could distract her from her ambition. This attitude was condemned by her friends. She was then nicknamed ‘Cut off from reality’.

But Okuboere experienced some joy in her heart of hearts. She understood the lectures better. As the examinations approached, the hope of embarking in her journey towards medicine spurred her on. When the results were released, she obtained “A”. At last, luck smiled on her. People started then to sing her praises.

As for Okuboere, she lived in the future. She imagined herself in a hospital palpating the sick, listening to their chests, turning their eyelids and feeling their pulse. The nickname – ‘Cut off from reality’ – stuck, but the praises of Okuboere are sung.

3.6 Translation Procedures

Let us recall the seven procedures for translated as formulated by J. P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet in their famous book *La stylistique comparée du français et de l’anglais* written in 1958. The procedures are literal translation, calque, borrowing, transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation.

There are at least two examples of **equivalence** in the translation. The first one is:

... brûlant la chandelle par les deux bouts

... burning the midnight oil.

or

... burning the candle at both ends.

The second option – burning the candle at both ends – is a literal translation. When we opt for the first translation – burning the midnight oil – the translation becomes **equivalence**. Both are correct.

The other example is :

en son for intérieur

in her heart of hearts

Equivalence, in translation, involves idiomatic expressions, proverbs and other stock expressions which are generally not translated word for word. Let us learn two new expressions which are examples of **equivalence**.

C'est toujours la même chanson.

It is the same old story.

Courir sur l'haricot à quelqu'un.

To get on someone's nerves

There are a few other interesting observations :

La médecine la galvanisait

Medicine spurred her on

'Galvaniser' means 'to give new life to'. But the option 'spurred her on' gives the message in a beautiful way.

Okuboere est adulée

The praises of Okuboere are sung

Okuboere est adulée can be translated simply as 'Okuboere is praised'. That will be a literal or word for word translated. However, the option chosen in the text brings out a kind of beauty in the language.

4.0 Conclusion

You have learnt numerous new words and expressions. Use them as often as possible. Some of the words are *épineux*, *le surnom* and *le chemin*. You can also recall briefly the seven translation procedures: *traduction littérale*, *emprunt*, *calque*, *transposition*, *modulation*, *équivalence* and *adaptation*.

5.0 Summary

You have learnt the following expressions and many others: *galvaniser*, *ausculter*, *examiner*, *affubler quelqu'un d'un sobriquet*.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences

1. I have given up drinking for two years running
2. Good parents always forgive their children
3. I am listening to the teacher.

4. Efua's surname is Mensah.
5. The brilliant student passed out with a first class.
6. To pass my examinations, I had to burn the midnight oil.
7. The way of success can be very thorny.
8. She worked hard in order to accomplish her ambitions.
9. She was nicknamed 'intelligent'.
10. Imagine your future ambition. Write a short essay of six lines to describe it.

7.0 References

- Coffman, M. E. (1973): *French Grammar*, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company.
- Ojo, S.A. (2002): *A Comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*, Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Vercollier, A. ; Vercollier, C. and Bourlier, K. (2006) : *Difficultés expliquées du français for English Speakers*, Ibadan : Clé & Spectrum.
- Vinay, J. P. et Darbelnet, J. (1977) : *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais*, Paris : Didier Erudition.

UNIT 12

MORT D'UNE CRISE CARDIAQUE

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Mort d'une crise cardiaque
 - 3.1 Model Translation
 - 3.2 Vocabulary
 - 3.3 Grammar
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

In unit 11, you translated the story of Okuboere whose dogged determination to be a doctor was fulfilled. This unit introduces you to a text on heart attack (crise cardiaque). The words, expressions and constructions will be very useful to you. Know the new words and use them as often as you can.

2.0 Objectives

The primary objective is to guide you to translate the text on heart attack (crise cardiaque) from French into English. In the process, you will fulfil the following objectives too:

Increasing your vocabulary:

crise cardiaque, puissant, anesthésiant, médicament, hospitalier, insomnie, homicide involontaire, à plusieurs reprises, répréhensible, entre-temps, perquisitionner, deuil, héritiers.

Read, enjoy and translate the text. Let your bilingual and monolingual dictionaries be handy. You will need them.

3.0 Translate the text into English using your dictionaries where necessary.

Mort d'une crise cardiaque

Le “roi du pop” est mort d'une crise cardiaque, sa mort annoncée il y a quelques jours. Le grand chanteur n'est plus ! Son médecin lui a administré un puissant anesthésiant, un médicament habituellement réservé à l'usage hospitalier. L'anesthésiant, procuré dans une pharmacie, s'employait pour combattre l'insomnie. Malheureusement le chanteur est mort et son docteur est accusé d'avoir commis l'homicide involontaire. L'homicide involontaire se différencie de l'homicide volontaire. Interrogé par les médias, l'avocat du médecin a réaffirmé à plusieurs reprises que son client n'avait rien fait de répréhensible. Entre-temps, le domicile du chanteur et la pharmacie dans laquelle le médicament a été procuré ont été perquisitionnés les dernières semaines. Le monde pleure sa mort. Sa mort fut un deuil. Ce riche chanteur n'avait que deux héritiers. Enfants heureux ou malheureux ? A vous de juger.

(Texte adapté de lepoint.fr, mardi 1^{er} septembre 2009)

3.1 Model translation

Died of heart attack

The “king of pop” died of heart attack. His death was announced a few days ago. The great singer is no more! His doctor gave him a powerful anesthetic, a drug normally reserved for hospital use. The anesthetic bought from a chemist's shop was used to combat insomnia. Unfortunately, the singer died and his doctor is accused of manslaughter. Manslaughter is different from murder. Interrogated by the media, the doctor's lawyer has reaffirmed many times that his client did nothing reprehensible. Meanwhile, in the last few weeks, a search has been carried out in the singer's home and the pharmacy shop where the drug was bought. The world is mourning his death. His death was universally mourned. This rich singer had only two heirs. Fortunate or unfortunate children? The judgment is yours.

You have attempted to translate. You can now improve on your knowledge of the text. Study the vocabulary and grammar. You will understand and enjoy the text better.

3.2 Vocabulary

puissant	-	powerful
un anesthésiant	-	anaesthetic (British spelling), anesthetic (American spelling)
l'insomnie (feminine)	-	insomnia (inability to sleep)
usage hospitalier	-	hospital use
homicide involontaire	-	manslaughter
répréhensible	-	reprehensible
un médicament	-	drug
perquisitionner	-	to carry out a search (This is a legal language)
entretemps	-	meanwhile

You can also spell *entretemps* in the flowing way: *entre-temps*

Il n'est plus – He is dead. Literally, he is no more.

L'homicide involontaire	}	manslaughter (through negligence)
L'homicide par l'imprudence		
Le deuil – mourning		

3.3 Grammar

The use of the Passive voice.

You observe again the use of Passive voice (**la voix passive or le passif**). There are three examples in the text:

Son docteur est accusé d'homicide involontaire.

His doctor is accused of manslaughter.

Interrogé par les médias - interrogated by the media

Le domicile du chanteur et la pharmacie ont été perquisitionnés

The home of the singer and the pharmacy shop were searched. (A search

was carried out on the singer's home and pharmacy shop).

Always, remember the use of “être” as the auxiliary for expressing the passive voice (**la voix passive**) in a complete sentence. Notice also the different uses of “être” – “est” and “ont été” – according to the tense required in the text. “Le docteur est accusé” is in the present tense. The use of “ont été” is **passé composé** of “être”.

When you use **la voix passive** ou **le passif**, you should remember to ensure agreement of person and number:

1. La femme est accuséee par son mari.
2. Les femmes sont accuséeses par leurs maris.
3. Le domicile du chanteur et la pharmacie ont été perquisitionnéss

Note that the subject is plural. We have “le domicile du chanteur” and “la pharmacie” as subject. That is why “perquisitionnés” is in the plural.

4.0 Conclusion

The text is short but very rich in vocabulary. You have learnt the following new words among many others: *anesthésiant, usage hospitalier, homicide involontaire, perquisitionner*.

5.0 Summary

Your vocabulary and grammar have further expanded. You have been reminded of **le passif** also. L’homicide involontaire and l’homicide par l’imprudence are synonyms. They mean the same thing.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences into French.

1. The woman is accused of stealing
2. The man is combating insomnia
3. He is interrogated by the media
4. The doctor committed manslaughter

5. The man died of malaria
6. The media interrogated the lawyer
7. The man's house was searched by the police
8. The king of music has just died
9. The judgment is ours
10. The rich man had just a child

7.0 References

lepoint.fr , mardi 1er septembre 2009

Van Hoof, H. (1989) : *Traduire de l'anglais, théorie et pratique*,
Paris : Editions Duculot.

Vinay, J. P. et Darbelnet, J. (1977) : *Stylistique comparée du
français et de l'anglais*, Paris : Didier Erudition.

Seleskovitch, D. and Lederer, M. (1986), *Interpréter pour traduire*,
Paris: Edition Erudition.

UNIT 13

LE MONDE VOTE OBAMA (I)

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Le monde vote Obama (I)
- 3.1 Vocabulary
- 3.2 Points of Grammar
- 3.3 Model Translation
- 3.4 A few more points or comments
- 3.5 Day and Months in French
- 3.6 The media
- 3.7 Le Net
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

The text should sound very familiar to you. It tells the story of Obama's victory at the Democratic Party's primaries and later at the Presidential election. It ends by showing Obama's world wide popularity. This text introduces you to a lot of useful words such as the French equivalents of "*the rising star*", *charisma*, *opinion poll*, *the pet* or *favourite*, etc. The text also widens your general knowledge and political horizon.

2.0 Objectives

On successful completion of this text, you will have learnt the following words and expressions: *le suffrage*, *les suffrages exprimés*, *l'étoile montante*, *électrifier*, *assistance*, *charisme*, *don d'éloquence*, *concurrent*, *victoire éclatante*, *le chouchou*.

3.0 Le monde vote Obama (I)

Read the text

Ayant conquis le Sénateur Hilary Clinton, ancienne première dame de l'Amérique et la favorite initiale de divers sondages par rapport à la course vers la Maison Blanche, Barack Husein Obama de l'Illinois dont le père était kenyan et la mère américaine blanche, a reçu l'investiture du parti démocrate. Au niveau de son parti, ce n'était qu'une étoile montante. Son discours prononcé en 2004 a électrifié l'assistance. A part son charisme et son don d'éloquence rare, il a vite convaincu les Américains du besoin de rassemblement et du changement dans la politique américaine. Lisons ses propres mots : "il n'y a pas une Amérique rouge des Républicains et une Amérique bleue des Démocrates. On prie aussi dans les Etats bleus et on a aussi des amis homesexuels dans les Etats rouges".

Et face à son concurrent républicain John McCain, il a eu une victoire éclatante, remportant avec 56% des suffrages exprimés le 4 novembre 2008. Est-ce un miracle ? Pour bien des Africains, la réponse est "oui". Barack veut dire 'béni des dieux' en swahili, langue communément parlée en Afrique de l'Est.

C'est presque incroyable : en six ans, il est devenu une star exceptionnelle et le chouchou des médias et du Net. Les médias non américains eux aussi, se rallient au clan Obama ! "Un vent d'engouement s'est levé autour du jeune sénateur et les médias l'ont nommé : l'Obamania".

Our text in this unit has very many words that should be of great interest to you. Some of them are as follows: *le sondage, la course, le charisme, le suffrage, le chouchou.*

There are other words and expressions : *a reçu l'investiture, étoile montante, victoire éclatante.*

Get acquainted with some of the difficult words before you start translating.

3.1 Vocabulary

Le sondage	–	poll
Le sondage d'opinion	–	opinion poll
We could also say <u>l'enquête d'opinion</u>		
La course	–	race (i.e. competition)
Le charisme	–	charisma
Le suffrage	–	vote (used in politics)
Les suffrages exprimés	–	valid votes
Le chouchou	–	the pet, favourite
Recevoir l'investiture	–	to be endorsed by one's party

Investiture de candidat means “nomination”.

Example: En 2007, Yar'adua a reçu l'investiture de son parti politique.

L'étoile montante (f) – rising star

Sometimes the word ‘star’ is used in French. It is feminine because the original French equivalent ‘étoile’ is also feminine.

Obama est une star de la politique

Obama is a big star in politics

Okocha était une star de l'équipe Green Eagles

Okocha was a top football player of Green Eagles

Note that **l'équipe** means **team**. But it certainly refers to a **footballer** in this context. A footballer or football player can be translated literally as un **un footballeur**. The translation given in the above sentence is therefore an example of **modulation**, that is translation where words or elements are viewed from different points of view in two languages. **L'équipe** is the whole team, but a football player is just a member of the team.

Victoire éclatante – resounding victory

Attempt to translate the text now. Continue to encourage yourself even if you make many mistakes. Know that you are improving on your knowledge as you continue to translate.

3.2 Points Grammar

dont - is a complement of a noun indicating possession or quality. It means ‘whose’.

Note: ce sénateur dont le père était kenyan

Not : ce sénateur dont son père était kenyan

Similarly you should write :

“la femme dont les enfants travaillent bien ...”

“les enfants dont la mère est très travailleuse ...”.

Note : Les points de suspension (...) are used here to show that the sentences are incomplete.

Bleus

Note the plural form of **bleu**. It ends with an ‘s’, NOT ‘x’.

Compare other words and their plural forms:

le cheveu – les cheveux

le cheval – les chevaux

le caillou (stone) – les cailloux

It will also interest you to know the following:

le bal (dance) – les bals

le chandail (candle) – les chandails

le travail (work) – les travaux

3.3. Model Translation

Now compare your translation with the model provided.

The world votes for Obama I

Having defeated Senator Hilary Clinton, former first lady of America and the initial favourite of various opinion polls regarding the race to the White House, Barack Hussein Obama, the Senator from Illinois whose father was Kenyan and mother white American, was endorsed by his Democratic party. At the party level, he was only a rising star. His speech delivered in 2004 electrified the audience. Apart from his charisma and his rare gift of eloquence, he convinced Americans of the need for unity and change in American politics. Hear him: “There is no red America of the Republicans and no blue America belonging to the Democrats. The blue states also pray just as there are homosexuals in the red states”.

He won a resounding victory over John McCain, winning 56% of the valid votes on 4th November, 2008. Is it a miracle? For many Africans, the answer is “yes”. Barrack means ‘blessed by the gods’ in Swahili, a language commonly spoken in East Africa.

It is almost unbelievable that he has become an exceptional star of the media and the internet within six years. The non-American media also rally round Obama. “A new fad has risen around the young Senator and the media call it Obamania”.

3.4 A few more points or comments

East Africa

East Africa is either **L’Afrique de l’Est** or **L’Afrique Orientale**. Similarly, West Africa is **L’Afrique Occidentale** or **L’Afrique de l’Ouest**.

Obamania is neither a French word nor an English word. It is simply formed out of Obama. Obamania is used to express the enthusiasm Obama’s name and personality create in people, that is the people’s love for him.

3.5 Days and Months in French

Remember that **in French**, the initial letters of the days of the week and the months of the year are written in small letters. The days of the week are **lundi, mardi, mercredi, jeudi, vendredi, samedi, dimanche**. In English, we have: **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday** and **Sunday**.

The months are **janvier, février, mars, avril, mai, juin, juillet, août, septembre, octobre, novembre, décembre**. On the other hand, they are all written in capital in English: **January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December**.

3.6 The media

‘The media stands for ‘radio, television, newspapers, the Internet and magazines’, considered as a group: can be followed by

a plural or singular verb' *Macmillan English Dictionary* (2007:935).

3.7 Le Net is a shortened form of **L'Internet**. The word – L'internet – is the same in English.

4.0 Conclusion

The text is full of words and expressions designed to improve your knowledge. Recall some of these words and expressions: *le sondage, l'étoile montante, le chouchou*. The expressions and words are very useful. Use them to talk about your favorite political model or any person you admire very much.

5.0 Summary

Your knowledge of French has greatly improved. Recall these words any time you face similar situations.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences into English

1. La Maison Blanche est le siège du président américain.
2. Voici mon ami dont les parents sont nigériens.
3. Le discours du président a électrisé le pays.
4. La victoire éclatante a été facilitée par son don d'éloquence.
5. Gani Fawehinmi était le chouchou des médias nigériens.
6. Write the ordinals from first to tenth
7. Write the equivalents of the following in French: 1st November, 2nd November, and 3rd November.
8. Today is 5th June.
9. He is the pet of his parents
10. I love Obama, I like him.

7.0 Référence

<http://www.afrik.com/article11052.html> consulted on 20th November, 2008.

Lederer, M. (1994) : *La traduction aujourd'hui : le modèle interprétatif*, Lille : Presse Universitaire de Lille.

Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (2007):
Second Edition, London: A&C Black Publishers Ltd.

UNIT 14

LE MONDE VOTE OBAMA (II)

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Le monde vote Obama (II)
- 3.1 Vocabulary
- 3.2 Points of Grammar (se vouloir, Noir, les Kennedy)
- 3.3 General Knowledge
- 3.4 Model Translation
- 3.5 A Few More Points
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

This unit is a continuation of the last unit topic on Obama. As you study it, you will enrich your vocabulary and general knowledge tremendously. That will in turn make you adequately prepared for the task of translating.

2.0 Objectives

This unit will help you in:

- enriching your vocabulary
- improving your grammar
- broadening your horizon

3.0 Read the text “Le monde vote Obama (II)”

Partout, on dit que Obama est noir. Est-ce vrai ? Etant métis, il est plutôt bronzé !

Grâce à ses efforts infatigables, Obama a transcendé non seulement les stéréotypes socioculturels mais aussi les clivages partisans anciens favorisés également par les indépendants. Les

banlieues blanches l'ont voté. Il en était de même dans les quartiers noirs. Le vent Obamania a touché de nombreuses personnalités américaines, notamment l'animatrice Oprah Winfrey, Colin Powell et les Kennedy. Obama a même été surnommé "le John Kennedy noir". De même, Michelle, la femme d'Obama est comparée à Mme Kennedy d'où l'interrogation : Michelle Obama : la "Black Jacky Kennedy" ?

Mais est-ce que cette star fait l'unanimité partout ? Mais non. Personne n'est aimé de tous ! Des menaces d'assassinat ont obligé Washington à renforcer le dispositif de sécurité autour de lui. Au moins ce que dit le FBI se veut très rassurant.

* Adapté de Barack Obama : l'homme qui pourrait être le premier président noir des Etats-Unis, <http://www.afrik.com/article11052.html> consulté le 11/20/2008 7.36 du soir

Our text in this unit has very many words that should be of great interest to you. Some of them are as follows: *l'engouement* (m), *bronzé*, *l'animatrice* (f), *métis*, *surnommé*.

There are other words and expressions: *menaces d'assassinat*, *le dispositif de sécurité*.

3.1 Vocabulary

You will find here most of the difficult words. The explanations serve as a guide to make the work easier.

l'engouement (masculine)	–	fad
bronzé	–	tanned
animateur (m)	–	presenter (of cultural show)
animatrice (f)	–	presenter (of cultural show)
animateur de radio (masc.)	–	radio presenter
animatrice de radio (fem.)	–	radio presenter
métis	–	a person of mixed race

(Note that the 's' is pronounced. We say /metis/ and not /meti/!)

You could also use "mulato" or "half cast".

surnommé – nicknamed

This is an example of a ‘faux ami’ or false friend. **Faux amis** are deceptive words that resemble each other in appearance. Having understood the words explained above, you should also know the following words so that the task of translating will be easier.

menaces (f) d’assassinat – threats of assassination
le dispositif de sécurité – security presence
renforcer le dispositif de sécurité – reinforce or increase the presence of security agents and operations

le Net – abridged form of l’Internet (m)

One more explanation before you translate. The word ‘*voter*’ means of course ‘to vote’. You could say **le monde vote Obama** or **le monde vote pour Obama**. They mean the same thing.

How was your translation? As usual do not get discouraged if you did translate some things wrongly. The important thing is: be determined, translate as many texts as you can. The more you translate, the more interested you become in the art and the better you are.

The following issues of grammar and general knowledge will be useful to you: *November (Note the comma also!), Independent voters, the Kennedys, FBI.*

3.2 Points of Grammar

Se vouloir

Ce que dit le FBI se veut très rassurant.

What the FBI says is meant to be very reassuring

Le journal se veut objectif – The journal claims to be unbiased, objective

The use of 'On'

You have met the word 'on' many times. It is an important word. You learnt in FRE 301 that 'on' means one of the following: someone, you, on, we, they. The context determines its meaning.

In this passage, 'on' is used in translating the passive construction 'it is said':

On dit que Obama est noir – It is said that Obama is black
(They say Obama is black)
(People say Obama is black)

Note that the **que** in French meaning 'that' may or may not be translated in English. It is optional in English, but compulsory in French. Remember its use when you translate a sentence like:

He says he is coming – Il dit qu'il vient

The absence of **que** makes your French very faulty and therefore unacceptable. It will also betray your Anglophone background.

November

The days of the month are written with an initial capital letter in English, but the reverse is the case in French. It is also worth knowing that there is no comma after the French *novembre*. The English version needs it.

The Kennedys

In French, it is *les Kennedy, les Ajiboye, les Clark*.

3.3. General Knowledge

Jacqueline (Jackie) Kennedy was the wife of John Kennedy. The Kennedys are a very popular and well-established American family.

FBI = Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is a US government department which deals with criminal cases that cut across states in America. It is not translated because it is a well known department just like the CIA – Central Intelligence Agency.

Independent voters in America are those who are neither pro Democrat nor pro-Republican. The Democratic Party and the

Republican party are the two major parties in America. The colour 'red' refers to Republicans and 'blue' to Democrats.

3.4 Model Translation

The world votes for Obama II

Everywhere it is said that Obama is black. Is it true? Being a mulato, he is rather tanned!

Due to his indefatigable efforts, Obama broke and transcended not only sociocultural stereotypes but also partisan division in America favoured equally by independent voters. The white suburbs voted for him. So did the black areas. The wind of Obamania has touched many American personalities, notably the presenter Oprah Winfrey, the black Republican Colin Powell and the Kennedys. Obama was even nicknamed "The black John Kennedy". In the same way, Michelle, Obama's better half was compared to Mrs Kennedy, hence the question: Michelle Obama: "The black Jackie Kennedy"?

But does this star enjoy unanimity everywhere? Of course not. No one is loved by all. Threats of assassination have forced the FBI to increase its security presence around him.

The original version was adapted from the Internet entitled 'Barack Obama: l'homme qui pourrait être le premier président noir des Etats-Unis', <http://www.afrik.com/article11052.html> (Consulted on November 20, 2008 at 7 :36pm).

3.5 A few more comments

Independent voters are people who do not vote according to party affiliation. For instance, in America there are two major parties – The Republican Party and the Democratic Party. An independent voter is one who does not belong to any party.

4.0 Conclusion

You have learnt a lot in this extremely rich passage. You should be able to recall the following words with ease: *métis*, *bronzé*, *banlieu* and *dispositif de sécurité*.

5.0 Summary

With your improved vocabulary and grammar, you can readily translate similar texts. Remember the use of **se vouloir** and other points of grammar.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences into French

1. He says you are right
2. She told me that she saw you
3. Obama is a halfcast
4. The assassins are there
5. The Jonathans are here with us

7.0 References

- Coffman, M. E. (1973): *French Grammar*, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company.
- Ojo, S.A. (2002): *A Comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*, Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Van Hoof, H. (1989) : *Traduire de l'anglais, théorie et pratique*, Paris : Editions Duculot.
- Vercollier, A. ; Vercollier, C. and Bourlier, K. (2006) : *Difficultés expliquées du français for English Speakers*, Ibadan : Clé & Spectrum.

Sitographie

<http://www.afrik.com/article11052.html> consulted on 20th November 2008.

Sitographie here stands for references taken from the internet.

UNIT 15

TWO SIAMESE TWINS

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Two Siamese twins
 - 3.1 Vocabulary
 - 3.2 Related Vocabulary
 - 3.3 Points of Grammar
 - 3.4 Model Translation
 - 3.5 The successful separation of two Siamese babies
 - 3.6 La séparation réussie de deux bébés siamois
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

This unit treats a topic titled “two Siamese twins”. It is a short passage that introduces you to new vocabulary.

2.0 Objectives

The translation text will help expand your knowledge of French vocabulary. You will know the French equivalent of the following words: *Siamese twins*, *figurative meaning*, *faithfulness*, *beefy*, *Don Juan*, *lanky*.

3.0 Read the following short text. Translate it. Use your three dictionaries – dictionnaire unilingue anglais, dictionnaire unilingue français, dictionnaire bilingue (anglais/français) to help you. Try to translate the text on your own before referring to the Model Translation.

Two Siamese twins

Laide and Mohammed are two Siamese twins. Siamese twins are twin brothers or sisters who are joined together on the same parts of their bodies. But Laide and Mohammed are not Siamese twins in the literal sense. In fact, they are not from the same country. Laide is a Ghanaian mulato while Mohammed is an African American. Both are tanned. The term ‘Siamese’ is used in this case in a figurative sense to mean that they are two inseparable friends. They are friends whose faithfulness is absolute. What is interesting is their physical differences. Laide is short and beefy, while Mohammed is tall and lanky. Perhaps what unites them most is that they are both Don Juan.

Laide is preparing for career in the diplomatic service. Like his Siamese brother, he works very hard, having completed his studies in History, he boasts of having acquired an admirable and profound knowledge of human sociology.

As for Mohammed, he has just finished his studies in law. He will be called to bar in two weeks time. He is intelligent, a bit talkative and very likeable. His friends accuse him of just one thing; he is a chain smoker: yes an addicted smoker.

They dress always or almost the same way. During the week, they wear checked shirt and jeans. But the weekend, especially Saturday is reserved for a striped T-Shirt or trainers. One understands therefore why they are nicknamed “Siamese twins”

Try to translate the text.

3.1 Vocabulary

twins (male)	–	les jumeaux
Siamese twins (male)	–	frères siamois
figurative meaning	–	le sens figuratif
figuratively	–	au sens figuré
beefy	–	costaud
faithfulness	–	la fidélité
lanky	–	maigre
Don Juan	–	Don Juan, a seducer of women

‘Don Juan’ has its origin in the 19th century from the name of a legendary Spanish noble man with an immoral character.

3.2 Related vocabulary

female Siamese twins	–	sœurs siamoises
Siamese sisters	–	sœurs siamoises
jumelles	–	twin sisters
au figuré	–	figuratively, in a figurative sens

3.3. Point of Grammar

Dont

Dont in French is a relative pronoun. It means whose.

Ce sont des amies **dont** la fidélité est absolue –

They are friends whose faithfulness is absolute (complete).

Read the following sentences. See how **dont** is used. Make sentences on your own using **dont**.

Voilà le monsieur dont je connais la fille

That is the gentleman whose daughter I know.

Tu connais l’homme dont l’enfant est malade?

Do you know the man whose child is sick?

C’est le professeur dont les examens sont toujours difficiles.

It is the teacher whose examinations are always difficult.

3.4 Model Translation

Deux frères siamois

Laide et Mohammed sont des frères siamois. Les frères siamois sont des jumeaux unis l’un à l’autre par deux parties homologues de leur corps. Mais Laide et Mohammed ne sont pas des frères siamois dans ce sens littéral. En effet, ils n’ont pas la même nationalité. Le terme ‘siamois’ s’emploie ici dans un sens figuré pour signifier que ce sont des amis dont la fidélité est absolue. Ce qui est intéressant est leurs différences physiques.

Laide est petit et costaud, tandis que Mohammed est grand et maigre. Peut-être que ce qui les unit, c'est qu'ils sont tous deux des Don Juan.

Laide s'oriente vers une carrière du service diplomatique. Comme son frère siamois, il travaille très dur. Ayant fini ses études en histoire, il se vante d'avoir acquis une connaissance admirable et approfondie de la sociologie humaine.

Quant à Mohammed, il vient de terminer ses études en droit, il s'inscrira au barreau dans quinze jours. Il est très intelligent, un peu bavard et très aimable. Ses amis lui reprochent d'une seule chose : il est un fumeur de cigarette à la file, c'est un fumeur invétéré.

Ils s'habillent toujours ou presque toujours de la même façon. Au cours de la semaine, ils portent des chemises à carreaux et des jeans. Mais le weekend en particulier le samedi, est réservé pour un tee-shirt à rayures (striped T-shirt), un jean ou un short (shorts) ou des tennis (trainers UK, sneakers US). On comprend alors pourquoi on les appelle « les frères siamois »

Ils n'ont pas la même nationalité

They are not from the same country.

Another way of translating this sentence is "Ils sont des pays différents" "They are from different countries". This last translation will be a kind of modulation.

3.5 The successful separation of two Siamese babies

Let us translate another text – a case of Siamese twins

The successful separation of two Siamese twins from Madagascar made headline in the newspapers. The children were joined in the thorax and abdomen with a common liver. About twenty professionals were mobilized for the operation which lasted almost six years.

The word "Siamese babies" originated from the birth of two brothers in Siam in 1811.

In fact, Siamese children are twins who are joined together in one part of their bodies. This malformation is due to an embryonic anomaly or other complications during pregnancy. In general, it would have to do with the incomplete division of the egg, but in some other more rare cases, it could also be due to a partial fusion of two eggs that were distinct (different) from the beginning. This happens in one pregnancy out of a 100, 000. This type of birth is getting reduced more and more in developed countries due to the increase in ultrasound scan leading to the suggestion of possible abortion. Another fact: in 90% of the cases, girls are involved.

Among the extraordinary cases recently registered, one can cite the cases of Abigeal and Brittany Hansel, two American Siamese sisters from Minnesota. They were born on 7th March, 1990, have two heads, two vertebral columns joined to the pelvis, have two stomachs, four lungs, two hands, a ribcage, a bladder, one reproductory organ and two legs. The two sisters aged 18 years still live joined together; they take part in sports, piano, computer, etc. They do not have the same interests and have been the source of many documentaries.

Vocabulary

échographie = ultrasound; ultrasound scan, sonogram (US)

passer une échographie = to have an ultrasound

échographie is a technical term. In day to day language, one may use 'ultrasons' (masc. plural).

la cage thoracique = ribcage

la vessie = bladder

les colonnes vertébrales = spine

3.6 La séparation réussie de deux bébés siamois

La séparation réussie de deux bébés siamois originaires de Madagascar a fait la une des journaux. Les enfants étaient reliés par le thorax et l'abdomen avec un foie en commun. L'opération qui a duré près de six ans a mobilisé une vingtaine de professionnels.

Les mots “bébés siamois” viennent de la naissance de deux frères nés au Siam en 1811. Ils étaient accolés et faisaient la belle part des spectacles de cirque.

En fait, des enfants siamois sont des jumeaux qui sont soudés l’un à l’autre par une partie du corps. Cette malformation est, soit due à une anomalie embryonnaire, soit à une complication dans le cas de grossesse gémellaires. En général, il s’agirait d’une division incomplète de l’œuf unique mais dans d’autres cas plus rares, il pourrait aussi s’agir d’une fusion partielle de deux ébauches d’embryons qui étaient bien distinctes au départ. Une grossesse sur 100 000 serait concernée. Ce type de naissance dans les pays développés est de plus en plus rare grâce à la multiplication des échographies et dans ce cas, des interruptions de grossesse sont proposées. Autre indication : cette malformation touche les filles dans 90% des cas.

Parmi les cas extraordinaires recensés, l’on peut citer celui d’Abigail et de Brittany Hensel, deux sœurs siamoises américaines bicéphales vivant dans le Minnesota. Elles sont nées le 7 mars 1990, ont deux têtes, deux colonnes vertébrales jointes au pelvis, ont deux estomacs, quatre poumons, deux bras, une cage thoracique, une vessie, un appareil reproducteur et deux jambes. Les deux sœurs âgées de 18ans, vivent toujours collées, pratiquent des sports, le piano, l’ordinateur, etc. elles n’ont pas les mêmes goûts et ont fait l’objet de plusieurs documentaires.

(tiré de <http://www.web-libre-org/breves/bebes-siamois.4151.html> téléchargé le 24 juillet 2010, article posté le 9 février 2009).

4.0 Conclusion

This short and challenging translation has further expanded your knowledge of French. You now know more words: *maigre*, *Don Juan*, *siamois*, *fidélité* and so on.

5.0 Summary

Your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar has increased.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences

1. Sade and Bilikis are Siamese sisters
2. They come from the same country
3. They are friends whose love is sincere
4. My friend is a football addict.

7.0 References

The Concise Oxford Dictionary, Oxford New York: Oxford University Press.

Newmark, P. (1980): *About Translation*, Clevedon: Multilingual Matters International

Sitographie

<http://www.web-libre-org/breves/bebes-siamois.4151.html>

downloaded on 24th July, 2010. The article was posted online on 9th February, 2009.

UNIT 16

INTERSEMIOTIC TRANSLATION

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objective
- 3.0 Intersemiotic translation
- 3.1 Addition
- 3.2 Division
- 3.3 Multiplication
- 3.4 Subtraction
- 3.5 Les nombres impairs/Les nombres pairs
- 3.6 Aimes-tu les mathématiques ?
- 3.7 Model Translation
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

This unit introduces you to intersemiotic translation with particular reference to elementary mathematical signs. You will recall that in unit 4, we studied intersemiotic translation as one of the types of translation. Intersemiotic translation involves the use of signs. Transmutation is another word for intersemiotic translation. There is also a very short passage for translation. Your vocabulary will be further enriched.

2.0 Objectives

The objectives are to teach you the:

- addition or plus sign +
- division sign \div
- subtraction or minus sign –
- multiplication sign \times

- You will acquire the following vocabulary: **le calcul, les numéros impairs, les numéros pairs, les mathématiques, le scientifique, Ah bon!, les machines à calculer, la calculatrice, impeccable.**

3.0 Intersemiotic Translation

You will recall that we treated intersemiotic translation or **traduction intersémiotique** in Unit 4. Another word for intersemiotic translation is transmutation.

Intersemiotic translation involves the use of signs. Intersemiotic translation or transmutation can be defined as the interpretation of verbal signs (i.e. words) by means of nonverbal signs and vice versa. In this unit, you will learn to translate the mathematical signs into French.

3.1 Addition

$$100 + 100 = 200$$

Cent plus cent égalent deux cents.

$$40 + 41 = 81$$

Quarante plus quarante et un égalent quatre vingt un

Note that 81 is quatre-vingt un NOT quatre-vingt et un.

3.2 Division

$$15 \div 3 = 5$$

Quinze divisé par trois égale cinq

$$410 \div 2 = 205$$

Quatre cent dix divisés par deux égale deux cent cinq

The 'cent' in quatre cent dix and deux cent cinq are without 's' because of the dix and cinq that follow them. Thus, you will write quatre cents, deux cents, etc.

3.3 Multiplication

The word for multiplication in French is also **multiplication**. Of course, the two languages pronounce them differently.

See how multiplication is expressed in French. Observe the alternatives and the use of different verbs depending on the figure involved.

2 x 6	=	deux fois six
3 x 10	=	trois fois dix
4 x 9	=	quatre fois neuf
5 x 3	=	cinq fois trois
4 x 6	=	quatre fois six
3 x 10	=	trois fois dix
5 x 100	=	cinq fois cent

You can say or write the examples above differently :

2 x 6	=	doublez six
3 x 10	=	triplez dix
4 x 9	=	quadruplez neuf
5 x 3	=	quintuplez trois
4 x 6	=	sextuplez quatre
3 x 10	=	décuplez trois
5 x 100	=	centuplez cinq

3.4 Subtraction

Subtraction is “la soustraction”.

$$14 - 12 = 2$$

Quatorze moins douze reste deux.

or

Quatorze moins douze fait deux.

3.5 Les numéros impairs/Les numéros pairs

Les numéros impairs – odd numbers

Odd numbers cannot be divided by 2 without having a remainder, eg. 3, 5, 7, 9.

Les numéros pairs – even numbers

Even numbers are divided by two e.g. 2, 4, 10, 50

3.6 Aimes-tu les mathématiques

- Paul : Aimes-tu les mathématiques ?
Moustapha : Oui, je les aime très bien.
Paul : Ah bon! Comme tu as de la chance !
Moustapha : Comment ? J'aime les mathématiques. Je suis fort en mathématiques. Pour être scientifique, il faut aimer le calcul.
Paul : Moi, je suis très faible en mathématiques.
Moustapha : C'est pas un problème. Tu veux être un grand écrivain. Tu écris bien. Ton français est impeccable.
Paul : Merci, chacun a son goût. Je n'ai jamais aimé le calcul. Heureusement pour moi, il y a des machines à calculer et des calculatrices !

3.7 Model Translation

Do you like Mathematics ?

- Paul : Do you like Mathematics ?
Mustapha : Yes, I love it.
Paul : How lucky you are !
Mustapha : How ? I love Mathematics. I am good at Mathematics. To be a scientist, you have to like calculation.
Paul : As for me, I am weak in Mathematics.
Mustapha : That's not a problem. You want to be a great writer. You write very well. Your French is impeccable.
Paul : I don't like calculation (Arithmetic). Luckily for me, there are calculating machines and calculators!

Note: The French and English spellings of Moustapha/Mustapha. Other similar examples are Youssuf/Yusuf, Moussa/Musa, Tiamiyou/Tiamiyu.

A scientist – un scientifique

Ah bon! – It is an expression of surprise.

4.0 Conclusion

You have recourse to intersemiotic translation everyday. It is thus only proper that you remember the relevant words and expressions. Some of the useful words are **scientifique, calcul, calculatrice, numéros impairs, numéros pairs.**

5.0 Summary

Your knowledge of **la traduction intersémiotique** or **la transmutation** and the appropriate words will be very useful to you.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following mathematical signs into French

1. 8×202
2. $4 \times 4 \times 4 = 64$
3. $10 \div 2 = 5$
4. $6 - 5 = 1$
5. $5 + 6 = 11$

Translate the following sentences to mathematical signs

1. Triplez trois
2. Dix divisé par deux fait cinq
3. Dix divisé par deux reste cinq
4. Multipliez deux par dix
5. Trois et trois font six

7.0 Reference

- Grellet, F. (1991): *Apprendre à traduire. Typologie d'exercices de traduction.* Nancy, Presses Universitaires de Nancy. Jakobson, Roman (1963) : *Essai de linguistique générale*, Paris, Edition de minuit.
- Ojo, S.A. (2002): *A Comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*, Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.

UNIT 17 IN A SHOP

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 In a shop
 - 3.1 Vocabulary
 - 3.2 Model Translation
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

From intersemiotic translation, you are back to interlingual translation. You will recall that in interlingual translation, you translate from one language to another, e.g. English into French. In this unit, you will translate a short and simple dialogue in a shop.

2.0 Objectives

As you successfully translate the text, you will acquire the following words and expressions: *tailleur-pantalon, s'acheter quelque chose, vous désirez, payer par chèque.*

3.0 Read and Translate this text into French

In a shop

One day, Tounji bought a wrist-watch for himself. He also bought a trouser suit for his wife. Here is the discussion that ensued between him and the shop assistant.

Shop assistant: What can I do for you?

Tounji: A trouser suit for my wife. I would also buy a watch of very good quality for myself if you have one. If not, I go elsewhere. I am in a hurry.

Shop assistant: A trouser suit? I have many of them. Please make

your choice. There are very beautiful watches over there. There are also beautiful belts

Tounji: That's what I want (pointing to it with his finger). Belts? No, I have a lot of them. I have too many of them.

Shop assistant: That will be 15 thousand naira only for the trouser suit and 12 for the watch.

Tounji: But, that's too expensive. What's the lowest you'll go?

Shop assistant: 25 thousand for the two.

Tounji: It's too expensive.

Shop assistant: Don't forget that you want something of good quality.

Tounji: I don't, but ...

Shop assistant: Ok, I understand. I'll let you have it cheap. Pay 23 thousand.

Tounji: 23 thousand! And you say you'll let me have it cheap?

Shop assistant: Of course, Ok., tell me, what's your final offer?

Tounji: 20 thousand.

Shop assistant: Ok, pay.

Tounji: But I am going to pay by cheque.

Shop assistant: No problem

3.1 Vocabulary

Note the following words, expressions and their meanings in French.

s'acheter quelque chose oneself	–	to buy something for oneself
s'acheter une montre	–	to buy a watch for oneself
trouser suit	–	un pantalon-tailleur
What can I do for you? désirez-vous?	–	Vous désirez? or Que désirez-vous?
What's your final offer?	–	Quel est votre dernier prix?
What's the lowest you'll go?	–	Quel est votre dernier prix ?

I'll let you have it cheap – Je vous fais un prix
or Je vous fais un prix d'ami.

You will observe that “Quel est votre prix ?” has two different translations depending on who is speaking. In “I'll let you have it cheap?”, you may or may not add **d'ami**. The meaning is the same.

3.2 Model Translation

Dans un magasin

Un jour Tounji s'est acheté une montre. Il a acheté également des tailleurs-pantalons à un vendeur pour sa femme. Voilà l'entretien qui a eu lieu entre lui et le vendeur.

Vendeur : Vous désirez ?

Tounji : Un tailleur pantalon pour ma femme. J'aimerais m'acheter aussi une montre de très bonne qualité si vous en avez. Sinon, je vais ailleurs. Je suis pressé.

Vendeur : Un tailleur pantalon ? J'en ai beaucoup ici. Faites votre choix ! Il y a de belles montres là-bas. Il y a aussi de belles ceintures.

Tounji : Voilà ce que je veux (le démontrant du doigt). Des ceintures ? Non, je n'en ai pas besoin. J'en ai trop !

Vendeur : Vous payez 15 mille naira seulement pour le tailleur pantalon et 12 mille la montre.

Tounji : Mais, ça coûte trop cher ! Quel est votre dernier prix ?

Vendeur : 25 mille pour les deux.

Tounji : C'est trop cher !

Vendeur : N'oubliez pas que vous voulez quelque chose de bon.

Tounji : Je n'oublie pas, mais

Vendeur : Ok, je comprends. Je vous fais un prix d'ami. Payez 23 mille.

Tounji : 23 mille ! Et vous me faites un prix d'ami ?

Vendeur : Mais oui ! Ok, dites-moi, quel est votre dernier prix ?

Tounji : 20 mille.

Vendeur : D'accord, payez.

Tounji : Mais je vais payer par chèque.

Vendeur : Pas de problème.

NOTE: Do you observe that the French too say OK? You may say **d'accord** instead of OK. OK is a kind of **emprunt (borrowing)**.

4.0 Conclusion

Do your best to retain the words whenever you enter a shop. Know the following expressions and words to the extent that you can readily recall them for use when necessary : **vous désirez?, un tailleur pantalon, je vous fais un prix, quel est votre dernier prix?**

5.0 Summary

This translation has helped to widen your vocabulary and ability to translate. You have learnt the following words and expressions: **l'entretien, magasin, je vous fais un prix d'ami, etc.**

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate into English

1. De nos jours, les voitures coûtent très cher.
2. Je vais m'acheter un bon tailleur-pantalon.
3. Il vend des montres modernes.
4. Il s'achète une belle voiture.

Translate into French

5. I will pay in cash
6. My cheque booklet is not here
7. My wife loves trouser suit.
8. It is rather cheap
9. There are beautiful flowers over there
10. Don't forget that quality means more money!

7.0 Reference

Collins Robert French Dictionary Concise Edition (2006), Great Britain: Le Robert.

Grellet, Françoise (1991): *Apprendre à traduire. Typologie d'exercices de traduction.* Nancy, Presses Universitaires de Nancy.

UNIT 18

A NEW ERA BEGINS

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 A new era begins
 - 3.1 Vocabulary
 - 3.2 Points of Grammar
 - 3.3 Model Translation
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

The last unit dealt with the short dialogue in a shop. This unit is devoted to the translation of a text on modern science and technology. Specifically, you are to translate a text on mobile phones and related ideas.

2.0 Objectives

On successful completion of this unit, you should:

- acquire more vocabulary: *le mobile, le cellulaire, novatrice, ci-après, les indicatifs, virement bancaire, en un clin d'œil.*
- be able to translate the text

3.0 A new era begins

Science and technology have done a lot for man. They continue to do so. Through a mobile phone, one can send and receive written and oral messages. Certainly, an innovative and modern touch has found itself in the use of mobile telephone.

You will find below the dialing codes of some Francophone countries.

Benin	–	229
Guinea	–	224
Burkina Faso	–	226
Togo	–	228
Côte d’Ivoire	–	225

You do not have to subscribe to telephone lines anymore. You simply go to a supermarket or elsewhere and buy a mobile phone and a recharge card. Telephone directories have disappeared.

You can also embark on bank transfer from one country to another. The transfer is done in a twinkling of an eye.

3.1 Vocabulary

mobile telephone	–	le mobile (téléphone mobile), le cellulaire, le portable.
innovative	–	novateur (masc.) novatrice (fem)
dialing code	–	l’indicatif (indicatif téléphonique) (masc.)
subscribe to	–	s’abonner à
recharge card	–	la carte de recharge
bank transfer	–	virement bancaire
a twinkling of an eye	–	un clin d’œil

3.2 Point of Grammar

s’ouvrir	–	to open
La porte s’ouvre	–	The door opens

In a more literal way, it may be translated as “the door opens itself”. That is the way the French language expresses the idea. Such ideas are expressed also in the following:

Il se lave	–	He is taking his bath (Literally, he is washing himself)
Il s’habille	–	He is getting dressed up (Literally, he is dressing himself up).

The verbs used in this kind of construction are known as pronominal verbs – **les verbes pronominaux**. Let us see a few other examples: *se battre, se quereller, s'évader, s'évanouir, se suicider*.

3.3 Model Translation

Une nouvelle ère s'ouvre.

La science et la technologie ont tant fait pour l'homme. Elles en font toujours. Avec le mobile, on peut envoyer et recevoir des messages écrits et oraux. Certes, une touche novatrice et moderne a été apportée au téléphone par l'usage du mobile.

Vous trouverez ci-après la liste des indicatifs téléphoniques de certains pays francophones.

Le Bénin	–	229
La Guinée	–	224
Le Burkina Faso	–	226
Le Togo	–	228
La Côte d'Ivoire	–	225

Il n'est plus question d'abonnement à une ligne téléphonique. Il suffit d'aller au supermarché ou ailleurs pour acheter un portable et une carte de recharge.

On peut également entreprendre le virement bancaire d'un pays à un autre. Le virement (transfert) d'argent est fait en un clin d'œil.

How was your translation? Many mistakes? If not, congratulations! If yes, you have no cause to worry. Simply learn the words and expressions fast. Try to recall and use them in your daily encounter with mobile telephone!

4.0 Conclusion

This text is very practical. You see or use mobile phones everyday. Use the expressions. If there is no one to speak to in French, try and recall them just on your own.

5.0 Summary

This is a very practical passage. Write down the new words. Use them.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences into English

1. La technologie a contribué énormément au développement de l'homme
2. Le portable est aujourd'hui indispensable.
3. A travers les cellulaires, on peut envoyer des textes oraux et écrits.

7.0 References

Collins Robert French Dictionary Concise Edition (2006), Great Britain: Le Robert.

Vercollier, A. ; Vercollier, C. and Bourlier, K. (2006) : *Difficultés expliquées du français for English Speakers*, Ibadan : Clé & Spectrum.

UNIT 19

A BRITISH COUPLE CELEBRATES ITS 81ST YEAR OF MARRIAGE: A RECORD

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 A British Couple Celebrates its 81st Year of Marriage: A Record
 - 3.1 Vocabulary
 - 3.2 Points of Grammar
 - 3.3 Model Translation
 - 3.4 Mixed Race
 - 3.5 Un couple de noirs fait un enfant... blanc ! Regardez
 - 3.6 Model Translation
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

From mobile phones and bank transfer, the topic switches over to marriage – a British couple and a Nigerian couple. This unit will introduce you to a story on two old lovebirds – a text that is a challenge to mankind. The British couple celebrates its 81st marriage. The second text made “good” news in the press. Two Nigerians – both black – gave birth to a white baby in Britain. There had been a similar one where parents of mixed races gave birth to a set of twins of different colour : one white and the other one black.

2.0 Objectives

When you successfully complete this unit, you should be able to:

- translate the passage

- expand your vocabulary: *les tourtereaux, pour le meilleur et pour le pire, une maison de retraite, génétique, albinos, etc.*
- identify some grammatical issues

3.0 Read and understand the text. Study the vocabulary and translate.

A British Couple Celebrates its 81st Year of Marriage: A record

Two Britons, Anita and Frank Milford respectively aged 100 and 101 years, have celebrated their 81st wedding anniversary. The husband died in 2009. The two lovebirds got married in 1928 in England for better and for worse. According to the wife, the secret of the marriage is “to give, receive and laugh a lot”. The two married in all simplicity – without much money – and lived in a small house until March 2005. Th. They lived in an old people’s home till the death of the husband.

The two records on longevity in marriage are in India and the United States. Each lasted for 86 yearey have two children, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

(Translated from French into English
<http://www.senioractu.com/un-couple-de-Britanniques-vient-de-fêter-ses-78-ans-de-mariage-un-record!-a5734.html>).

3.1 Vocabulary

to feast, celebrate	–	fêter
lovebirds	–	les tourtereaux (masc.)
for better for worse	–	pour le meilleur et pour le pire
grand children	–	les petits-enfants
great grand children	–	les arrière-petits-enfants

The term “ les petits-enfants” is not ‘small children’ in English but ‘grand children’. Similarly, ‘les arrières-petits-enfants’ is ‘great grand children’

old people’s home	–	une maison de retraite
-------------------	---	------------------------

the wife	–	l'épouse	the
husband	–	l'époux	
longevity	–	la longévité	

'Lovebirds' are two people who love each other, especially young ones who show their love in public.

3.2 Points of Grammar

Se marier should remind you of **les verbes pronominaux**.

They married in 1928 – Ils se sont mariés en 1928

You cannot say "Ils ont marié en 1928" ! If you do, you are wrong. You will have betrayed your Anglophone background.

Observe the beautiful uses of **marier** and **se marier** in the following sentences.

1. Demain, je marie ma fille – I'm giving out my daughter (in marriage) tomorrow
2. Le rose se marie très bien avec le noir – Red goes very well with black

A pronominal verb is a verb preceded by another pronoun which is not the subject personal pronoun. The accompanying pronoun is called a reflexive pronoun : me, te, se, nous, vous, se. The pronouns refer to the same person as the subject is also the object of the verb. It means therefore that the subject acts upon itself. (Ade Ojo 2005: 331)

Elle se regarde devant le miroir

Elle se souvient de ses études en Pologne.

She is looking at herself in the mirror/before the glass.

She always remembers her studies in Poland.

3.3. Model Translation

Un couple Britannique célèbre ses 81 ans de mariage: un record

Deux Britanniques, Anita et Frank Milford, respectivement âgés de 100 et 101 ans, ont fêté leur 81^{ème} anniversaire de mariage. Le mari est mort en 2009. Les deux tourtereaux se sont mariés en 1928 en

Angleterre pour le meilleur et pour le pire. Selon l'épouse, le secret de ce mariage c'est "d'offrir, de recevoir, et de rire beaucoup". Les deux se sont mariés en toute simplicité, sans beaucoup d'argent – et ont vécu dans une petite maison jusqu'en mars 2005. Ils sont deux enfants, cinq petits-enfants et sept arrière-petits-enfants. Ils vivaient dans une maison de retraite jusqu'à la mort du mari. Les deux records de longévité en matière de mariage se situent en Inde et aux Etats-Unis pour une durée de 86 ans.

3.4 Mixed Race

Other words for someone of a mixed race are halfcaste and mulatto, but the two terms are offensive in English. A more polite expression is a person of mixed race (*Macmillan English Dictionary*, 2007:678)

There is a second text for you to translate.

3.5 Un couple de noirs fait un enfant... blanc ! Regardez

"The Sun" rapporte la naissance à Londres d'une petite fille blanche aux yeux bleus, mais dont les parents sont noirs... Des experts en génétique ont toutefois précisé que l'enfant n'est pas albinos.

Ben et Angela, d'origine nigériane, sont déjà les heureux parents de deux enfants, tous les deux noirs. Quelle fut donc leur surprise en découvrant leur petite fille, qu'ils ont appelée Nmachi, qui signifie "beauté de Dieu".

"Elle est belle et je l'aime. Sa couleur n'a pas d'importance. Elle est un miracle", a confié Angela.

De son côté, Ben déclare: "Ma femme est fidèle. Même si elle m'avait trompé, le bébé ne ressemblerait pas à ça. Elle ne ressemble pas à un enfant albinos, pas à ceux que j'ai vu au Nigéria ou dans les livres. Elle ressemble juste à un petit bébé blanc, en pleine santé. (...) Tout ce qui compte c'est qu'elle soit en bonne santé et que nous l'aimons".

Rappelons qu'il y a cinq ans, un cas similaire s'était produit. Kylie Hodgson et Remi Horder, avaient ainsi donné naissance à des jumelles de couleur différente, une noire et une blanche.

ressembler à	–	to resemble, to look like
tromper	–	to deceive
toutefois	–	however

3.6 Model Translation

A Black Couple Gives Birth to a White Child! Look at it!

“The Sun” reports the birth in London of a little white girl with blue eyes, but the parents are black.

Experts in genetics have confirmed that the child is not an albino. Ben and Angela of Nigerian origin are already the happy parents of two children, both of whom are black. How surprising it was for them to cover their little girl whom they named Nmachi meaning “the beauty of God”.

“She is beautiful, I love her. Her colour isn't important. She is a miracle!”, said Angela.

On his part, Ben declares : “My wife is faithful. Even if she cheated on me, the baby would still not look like that. She does not look like an albino, not like those I saw in Nigeria or in the books. She just looks like a little white baby full of life (in good health). All that matters now is that she is healthy and we love her”.

Let us recall that there was a similar case some years ago. Kylie Hodgson and Remi Horder, also gave birth to a set of twins of different colours – one black and the other one white.

4.0 Conclusion

You must have enjoyed this translation with quite a good number of new words. Recall the equivalents of the following words in English: **les tourtereaux, le meilleur et le pire, la longévité, une maison de retraite.**

5.0 Summary

You have learnt many words and expressions like *tourtereaux, épouse, maison de retraite, couple, génétique, similaire, etc.*

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

A. Translate the following sentences into English

1. Les Etats-Unis et l'Inde détiennent les records de longévité dans le domaine du mariage
2. Ils ont célébré leur 81^{ème} anniversaire de mariage/ Ils ont fêté le 81^e anniversaire de leur mariage.
3. Pour qu'un mariage réussisse, il faut donner, recevoir et beaucoup rire.

B. Correct the following sentences

4. L'homme a marié la femme.
5. C'est un bon mariage.
6. Les Etats-Unis d'Amérique détient le records.
7. Il faut fais le travail.
8. Voilà ma épouse.

7.0 References

<http://www.senioractu.com/un-couple-de-Britanniques-vient-de-fêter-ses-78-ans-de-mariage-un-record!-a5734.html>

Collins Robert French Dictionary Concise Edition (2006), Great Britain: Le Robert

Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (2007), London, Macmillan.

Vercollier, A. ; Vercollier, C. and Bourlier, K. (2006) : *Difficultés expliquées du français for English Speakers*, Ibadan : Clé & Spectrum.

UNIT 20

MY FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	My favourite newspaper
3.1	Vocabulary
3.2	Related Vocabulary
3.3	General Knowledge
3.4	Translation Issues
3.5	Model Translation
3.6	French Newspaper
3.7	La Coupe du monde
3.8	Vocabulary
3.9	Model Translation: The World Cup
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor-marked Assignment
7.0	References

1.0 Introduction

This unit introduces you to a practical translation. You will learn certain practical aspects of translation.

2.0 Objectives

On successful completion of this unit, you are expected to have learnt:

- the following words: *journal préféré, défense légitime, radicaux, aisé*
- related words : *le journal télévisé, la revue.*
- Some facts on newspapers in France.
- Some practical issues on translation.

3.0 Read the passage. Study the vocabulary and some practical issues on translation. Finally, translate the dialogue into French.

My favourite newspaper

Pumor: What is this newspaper? (Which newspaper is this?)

Ebikabowei : Which one? This one? **The Guardian? The Sun** or **The Nation?**

Pumor: No, the other one yes, that one. Opened in front of you.

Ebikabowei : Ah! That's my favourite newspaper for now. It's **The Tribune**. The newspaper for radicals.

Pumor : You want to be a radical?

Ebikabowei : Of course yes! However, you know, I am not from a rich family. So, I have to be quiet and suffer without complaint.

Pumor: But money isn't the criterion for self defense!

3.1 Vocabulary

newspaper	–	le journal
radical	–	le radical
radicals	–	les radicaux
criterion	–	le critère
self defense	–	la défense légitime

In English, 'criterion' is singular, while 'criteria' is plural. Note this as it is a common error. When you hear someone say "The criteria is that ...", you know there is an error. It should be "The criteria are that".

Note also that "journal" in English is translated as "la revue" in French.

3.2 Related vocabulary

le journal de 21h – the 9 o'clock news

21h shows that it is 9pm and NOT 9am. 9am will be 9h.

le journal télévisé – television news

– news bulletin

3.3 General Knowledge

In French, the major national newspapers are **Le Monde**, **Libération** and **Le Figaro** and **Le Canard Enchaîné** which is a satirical weekly. There are regional newspapers too such as **Ouest-France** (*Collins Robert 2006: 287*).

3.4 Translation Issues

You do not translate these newspapers. In a nutshell leave the papers – **The Guardian, the Sun and the Nation** – in their English versions. In the same vein, you may not, in a practical context, translate names and addresses.

e.g. John James Department of
 French University of
 Georgetown Freetown.

If you translate the names and address as

Jean Jacques
Le département de français
L'Université de Georgesville
Libreville

You will mutilate the real meaning.

By this translation, virtually everything has been distorted. The letter can never get to its destination. **Libreville** is a town. In fact, it is the capital of Gabon while **Freetown** is the capital of Sierra Leone!

3.5 Model Translation

Mon journal préféré

Pumor: Ebikabowei ! Qu'est-ce que ce journal?

Ebikabowei: Lequel ? Celui-ci ? The Guardian ? The Sun ou
 The Nation ?

Pumor: Non, l'autre oui, celui-là, ouvert devant toi.

Ebikabowei: Ah, ça, c'est mon journal préféré en ce moment.
 C'est Tribune. Le journal pour les radicaux.

Pumor: Tu veux être un radical ?

Ebikabowei: Mais oui ! Cependant, tu sais bien, je ne suis pas d'une famille aisée. Donc, je dois me taire et souffrir sans plaintes.

Pumor: Mais l'argent n'est pas le critère pour la défense légitime.

3.6 French Newspapers

You need to know something about newspapers in France. There are many newspapers in France. Below are some of the daily national papers (les quotidiens nationaux).

Libération

Le Monde

Le Parisien

La Tribune

Les Echos

Le Figaro

L'Humanité

La Croix

France Soir

For sports dailes, we have **L'équipe** and **Midi-Olympique**.

The following ones are magazines (les périodiques)

Courier International

Les Clefs de l'actualité Junior

Elle

L'Européen

L'Express

Marianne

Le Monde Diplomatique

Le Nouvel Observateur

Le Point

Le Monde d'Education

Sciences et Avenir

L'Etudiant

Phosphore

Télérama

You can read all these papers in the Internet. Form the habit of reading them regularly if you have the means. You will expand your horizon, improve your French and be more in tune with French culture.

When you read a paper like **Midi-Olympique**, you will get words like **entraîneur** (coach), **la Coupe du monde** (World cup), etc.

Another text is hereby provided for reading and translation.

3.7 La coupe du monde 2010 : L'Espagne sur le toit du monde

L'Espagne s'est offert sa première étoile de champion du monde, avec en prime un fabuleux doublé Euro – 2008/Mondial – 2010 dans la douleur avec un but d'Iniesta en prolongation contre les Pays-Bas réduits à dix en finale de la Coupe du monde dimanche à Johannesburg.

Ce match était fait pour les livres d'Histoire. Avant l'arrivée des joueurs sur le terrain, Nelson Mandela, fit même une apparition, en voiturette sur le terrain, pour saluer les fans du Soccer City. Au moment du but d'Iniesta, Casillas éclata en pleurs. Ce fut l'autre image de cette finale.

La Furia Roja, qui jouait sa première finale de coupe du monde, rejoint l'Allemagne, seule à avoir jusqu'ici réalisé un doublé Euro-Mondial dans ce sens (1972-1974). L'Espagne devient aussi le premier pays européen consacré en Coupe du monde en dehors du Vieux Continent.

Au total, l'arbitre anglais, M. Weff sorti 14 cartons jaunes et a exclu Heitinga en prolongation.

Les Néerlandais étaient généreux en fautes – plus d'une vingtaine dans le temps réglementaire.

Mais c'est le but marqué par Iniesta qui change le sort des deux équipes. Pour les Pays-Bas, c'est la troisième finale d'un Mondial raté après les échecs de 1974 contre la RFA et de 1978 contre l'Argentine. Le jeu était évidemment dominé par les Espagnols, toutefois moins fringants que prévu.

Les meilleures occasions néerlandaises vinrent de Robben. Parti dans le dos de la défense, son tir fut détourné du bout du pied droit par ‘San Iker’ (62^e). Robben vit son effort encore annihilé par le gardien espagnol.

(Texte adapté de <http://www.lepoint.fr/coupe-de-monde/coupe-du-monde-lespaigne-sur-le-toit-du-monde>)

3.8 Vocabulary

doublé	–	double victory
fabbuleux	–	fabulous
un but	–	a goal
Les Pays-Bas	–	Netherlands
consacré	–	consecrated i.e. blessed
exclu en prolongation	–	excluded from the extra time
cartons jaunes	–	yellow cards
la prolongation	–	extra time
voiturette	–	a small car
les fans	–	fans
Casillas éclata en pleurs	–	Casillas burst to tears
L’arbitre	–	referee
L’Espagne (f)	–	Spain
Espagnol	–	Spanish
les Néerlandais	–	The Dutch
un Néerlandais	–	a Dutchman
une Néerlandaise	–	a Dutchwoman
le Néerlandais	–	Dutch (language)
moins fringants que prévu	–	less dashing than expected
son tir fut détourné du bout du pied droit par “San Iker” –		his shot was deflected by the tip of the “San Iker’s” right foot.
faire cavalier seul	–	to go it alone
RFA = République Fédérale de l’Allemagne		
= Federal Republic of Germany		

Recognize the names of some of the players : Robben, “San Iker”, Iniesta, Heitinga.

3.9 Model Translation

2010 World Cup: Spain on top of the world

Spain gave herself her first world cup star with a double European 2008 and 2010 world champion with a goal scored by Iniesta during the extra time against Netherlands whose team was reduced to ten at the Sunday World Cup final in Johannesburg.

The match was made (destined) for the History books. Before the players arrived on the field, Nelson Mandela made his appearance in a small car in the field to salute the fans of Soccer City. When Iniesta scored his goal, Casillas burst into tears. That was another image of this final.

La furia Jola who was playing his first world cup final joined Germany, the only country to have had a double European and world champion (1972-1974). Spain also becomes the first blessed European country to win world cup outside of the Old Continent.

On the whole, the English referee, M. Weff brought out 14 yellow cards and barred Heitinga from the extra time.

The Dutch were generous in mistakes – more than twenty at the regular time. But it is the goal scored by Iniesta that changes the fate of the two teams. For Netherlands, this is the third failed world cup final following the failures of 1974 against the Federal Republic of Germany and that of 1978 against Argentina. The game was obviously dominated by the Spaniards who however less dashing than expected. The best opportunities for Netherlands came from Robben. Going into the back, his shot was deflected by the tip of San Iker's right leg. Robben saw his effort again destroyed by the Spanish goalkeeper.

4.0 Conclusion

These texts have led you to a broader horizon in French, English and translation issues. Note the words on football: *arbitre, tir, but, gardien, la coupe du monde, cartes jaunes, cartes rouges, prolongation.*

5.0 Summary

The texts have enriched your knowledge of translation. Keep the new words at your fingertips.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences into French

1. I want to buy today's Punch newspaper.
2. The 9pm news is read by Joke Agbaje.
3. Musa is a radical.
4. James comes from a rich family.
5. The Spaniards played better than the Dutch.
6. The Dutch players were given many yellow cards.
7. The Spanish goalkeeper was very good.
8. When Iniesta scored his goal, Casillas wept.
9. The word cup in South Africa was exciting.
10. This was Netherlands third failed attempt at the world cup.

7.0 References

Berchiche, Y. (2000): *Cours de la Sorbonne*, Paris

Collins Robert French Dictionary Concise Edition (2006), Great Britain: Le Robert

UNIT 21

FUEL SCARCITY

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Fuel Scarcity
 - 3.1 Vocabulary
 - 3.2 Related Vocabulary
 - 3.3 Model Translation
 - 3.4 Translation Issues
 - 3.5 Le prix du carburant réduit au Nigéria
 - 3.6 Model Translation
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

This unit deals with a common Nigerian phenomenon – fuel scarcity. You should have no problem understanding the original text since it is written in English. Take pains to master the translated version as they contain very useful words and expressions. You should learn to use the relevant vocabulary at the earliest opportunity.

2.0 Objectives

The primary objective is the translation of the passage on “Fuel Scarcity”. In the process of translating, you should be able to acquire the French equivalents of *fuel, engine, mechanic, threaten, keg, panel beater, to refuel, damaged, the previous day*.

3.0 Read the text. Get acquainted with the explanations below and translate the text.

Fuel Scarcity

It was a beautiful day (or at least so I thought) when I woke up very early in the morning. My main objective that day was to repair my damaged vehicle. I had an accident, but fortunately there was no casualty. The engine worked perfectly, but I still needed to see a mechanic. But the most urgent work was for my panel beater. I wanted to solve all the problems quickly as I was getting ready for an important journey.

But alas! My hopes were dashed. Why? Fuel scarcity was again threatening our state. The problem had started the previous day. But it was getting worse. I needed immediate solutions. I had to go to the black market to refuel, to buy two kegs of fuel at an exorbitant price.

3.1 Vocabulary

fuel	–	le carburant, l'essence (fem.)
engine	–	le moteur
mechanic	–	le garagiste (garage mechanic) le mécanicien
to threaten	–	menacer
keg	–	le bidon
panel beater	–	le tolier
to refuel a car or an aeroplane	–	se ravitailler
a damaged car	–	une voiture accidentée
the previous day	–	la veille
to get worse	–	empirer
to pay a fortune for something	–	acheter quelque chose à prix d'or

Note that in the cases of **fuel** and **mechanic**, you are given synonyms. **Fuel** is **le carburant** and **l'essence** is **petrol**. **Le garagiste** is the **garage mechanic**, while **mécanicien** is simply a **mechanic**.

3.2 Related Vocabulary

It will interest you also to know the following:

l'ingénieur mécanicien (masc.)	–	mechanical engineer
--------------------------------	---	---------------------

When talking about aircraft and ship, **un mécanicien** is an engineer. On the other hand **un mécanicien** is also “an engine driver” i.e. someone who drives a train (British English).

3.3 Model Translation

Le manque de carburant

C’était un beau jour (au moins c’est ce que je croyais) quand je me suis réveillée et levée très tôt le matin. Ce jour-là, j’avais comme but principal la réparation de ma voiture accidentée. J’avais eu un accident, mais heureusement il n’y avait ni morts ni blessés. Le moteur marchait parfaitement, mais il fallait voir quand même un garagiste. Le travail le plus urgent était chez le tôlier. Je voulais vite tout régler, comme je m’apprêtais pour un voyage important.

Hélas! Mes espoirs étaient frustrés. Et la cause ? Le manque de carburant menaçait de nouveau notre Etat. Le problème avait commencé avant-hier, mais cela empire encore.

Il fallait des solutions immédiates. J’ai dû aller au marché noir pour me ravitailler, pour acheter deux bidons d’essence à prix d’or.

Mais le problème de carburant ne se pose plus au Nigéria. Il y a du carburant partout. C’est le réveil d’un géant du continent africain. Mais pourquoi dit-on que notre pays est le géant de l’Afrique ? C’est parce qu’il est béni de ressources énormes humaines et matérielles. Le Nigéria est le pays le plus peuplé d’Afrique.

3.4 Translation issues

You observe that there were a few cases where we avoided a literal translation. In other words, the translations were not word for word. They, however, gave the desired meaning. Let us examine a couple of examples:

Et la cause? – why? Literally, it is “And the reason?”

“Acheter quelque chose à prix d’or” means to “pay a fortune for something”. That is the expression I opted to use to translate “to buy at an exorbitant price”.

3.5 Le prix du carburant réduit au Nigéria

Action Congress a réclamé une réduction des prix de l’essence.

L’essence a des coûts plusieurs fois élevés que les coûts officiels fixés à 22 naira le litre. La pénurie de carburant est un problème récurrent au Nigéria. Le problème est lié aux produits pétroliers souvent illégalement exportés du Nigéria vers l’extérieur au marché parallèle où il est vendu à environ 1,20 dollar le litre – près du double du prix officiel.

3.6 Model Translation

4.0 Conclusion

This text is a very practical one. Recall the words and expressions any time you experience fuel crisis or you have to go to a mechanic.

5.0 Summary

You have learnt many new words and expressions like *le garagiste*, *se ravitailler*, *la veille* and *une voiture accidentée*. Remind yourself of the words whenever you see an accident. Recall also the different relevant words when there is fuel scarcity: *le manque de carburant*, *le manque d’essence*, *le bidon*.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Translate the following sentences into English,

1. Le moteur marche bien.
2. Je vais chez le garagiste.
3. Il y a manque d’essence en ville.
4. Voilà la voiture accidentée.
5. J’ai acheté trois bidons de carburant.

3.0 References

Collins Robert French Dictionary Concise Edition (2006), Great Britain: Le Robert

Grellet, Françoise (1991): *Apprendre à traduire. Typologie d'exercices de traduction*. Nancy, Presses Universitaires de Nancy.

UNIT 22

THINGS FALL APART

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 An Extract
 - 3.1 Vocabulary
 - 3.2 Model Translation
 - 3.3 A Few Observations
 - 3.4 Transposition
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment
- 7.0 References

1.0 Introduction

This unit deals with the translation of an extract from Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe. The story is the beginning of the success story and fame of Okonkwo. The French title of Things Fall Apart is Le monde s'effondre. As you know, the novel is very interesting. Take pains to understand the vocabulary and enjoy the story.

It will be nice for you to buy the French version and read all of it.

2.0 Objectives

The chapter proposes to introduce you to literary translation in a more practical way. Through the reading of this short extract, you will be sensitized to reading French texts as your vocabulary and ideas will also 'grow' very rapidly.

3.0 Things Fall Apart

Okonkwo was well known throughout the nine villages and even beyond. His fame rested on solid personal achievements. As a young man of eighteen he had brought honour to his village by throwing Amalinze the Cat. Amalinze was the great wrestler who for seven years was unbeaten, from Umuofia to Mbaino. He was called the Cat because his back would never touch the earth. It was this man that Okonkwo threw in a fight which the old man agreed was one of the fiercest since the founder of their town engaged a spirit of the wild for seven days and seven nights.

The drums beat and the flutes sang and the spectators held their breath. Amalinze was a wily craftsman, but Okonkwo was as slippery as a fish in water. Every nerve and every muscle stood out on their arms, on their backs and their thighs, and one almost heard them stretching to breaking point. In the end Okonkwo threw the Cat.

That was many years ago, twenty years or more, and during this time Okonkwo's fame had grown like a bush-fire in the harmattan. He was tall and huge, and his bushy eyebrows and wide nose gave him a very severe look. He breathed heavily, and it was said that, when he slept, his wives and children in their out-houses could hear him breathe. When he walked, his heels hardly touched the ground and he seemed to walk on springs, as if he was going to pounce on somebody. And he did pounce on people quite often. He had a slight stammer and whenever he was angry and could not get his words out quickly enough, he would use his fists. He had no patience with unsuccessful men. He had had no patience with his father.

Unoka, for that was his father's name, had died ten years ago. In his day he was lazy and improvident and was quite incapable of thinking about tomorrow. If any money came his way, and it seldom did, he immediately bought gourds of palm-wine, called round his neighbours and made merry. He always said that whenever he saw a dead man's mouth he saw the folly of not eating what one had in one's lifetime. Unoka was, of course, a

debtor, and he owned every neighbour some money, from a few cowries to quite substantial amounts.

3.1 Vocabulary

wrestler	–	un lutteur
to bring down an adversary	–	terrasser un adversaire
a debtor	–	endetté
les vieux s'accordèrent à dire que ...	–	the old men agreed that ...
thigh	–	la cuisse
reputation, fame	–	la réputation
his bushy eyebrows	–	ses soupirs broussilleux
bush-fire	–	un feu de brousse
to stammer	–	bégayer
fists	–	les poings (masc)
huge	–	massif
out-house	–	une case
cowry	–	la caurie
improvident	–	imprévoyant
Amalinze was a wily craftsman	–	Amalinze était un professionnel retors.
as slippery as a fish in water	–	aussi souple et fuyant qu'un poisson dans l'eau.

3.2 Model Translation

Okonkwo était bien connu a travers les neuf villages et même au-delà. Sa réputation reposait sur de solides réussites personnelles. Jeune homme de dix-huit ans, il avait apporté honneur et gloire à son village en terrassant Amalinze le chat. Malinze était ce grand lutteur qui, pendant sept ans, était resté invaincu, d'Umuofia à Mbaino. On l'appelait le Chat parce que son dos se refusait à toucher la terre. Ce fut cet homme qu'Okonkwo terrassa dans une lutte dans dont les vieux s'accordèrent à dire que c'était une des plus acharnées depuis que le fondateur de leur ville s'était attaqué à un esprit de la brousse et l'avait affronté pendant sept jours et sept nuits.

Les tambours battaient et les flutes chantaient et les spectateurs retenaient leur respiration. Amalinze était un professionnel retors, mais Okonkwo était aussi souple et fuyant qu'un poisson dans l'eau. Tous leurs nerfs et tous leurs muscles se dessinaient en relief sur leurs bras, sur leur dos et sur leurs cuisses, et on les aurait presque entendus se tendre à se briser. A la fin, Okonkwo terrassa le Chat.

Cela se passait il y a de nombreuses années, vingt ans ou plus, et au cours de cette période la réputation d'Okonkwo avait grandi comme un feu de brousse sous l'harmattan. Il était grand et massif, et ses sourcils broussailleux et son large nez lui donnaient un aspect très sévère. Sa respiration était forte, et on disait que lorsqu'il dormait ses femmes et ses enfants pouvaient l'entendre respirer de leurs cases. Quand il marchait, ses talons touchaient à peine le sol et il semblait marcher sur des ressorts, comme un qui s'apprête à boxer quelqu'un. Et il boxait effectivement les gens, très souvent. Il bégayait légèrement et, chaque fois qu'il était en colère et ne parvenait pas à sortir ses mots assez vite, il se servait de ses poings. Il n'avait aucune patience avec les hommes qui ne réussissaient pas. Il n'avait eu aucune patience avec son père.

Unoka, car tel était le nom de son père, était mort dix ans auparavant. En son temps, il était paresseux et imprévoyant et tout à fait incapable de penser au lendemain. Si quelque argent lui tombait entre les mains, et cela était rare, il achetait immédiatement des calebasses de vin de palme, appelait ses voisins à la ronde et faisait fête. Il disait toujours que chaque fois qu'il voyait la bouche d'un mort, il voyait la folie de ne pas manger ce qu'on possédait pendant qu'on était en vie. Unoka était, bien sûr, un homme endetté, et il devait de l'argent à chacun de ses voisins depuis quelques cauris jusqu'à des sommes tout à fait substantielles.

3.3 A Few Observations

There are many things that need to be treated in this passage, but you have to do some work on your own. You have learnt a lot.

Now, use your dictionary and study the passage and the translation very carefully.

A few observations are these:

“to pounce” is “se lancer sur”, “bondir sur”, but the translator has used ‘boxer’ which means to ‘box’. The meaning is slightly different.

You will also observe that the word order of the sentences are not strictly followed. Let us read an example.

He breathed heavily, and it was said that, when he slept, his wives and children in their out-houses could hear him breathe.

Sa respiration était forte, et on disait que lorsqu’il dormait ses femmes et enfants pouvaient l’entendre respirer de leurs cases.

Notice where “their out-houses” and “leurs cases” are placed in the original and the translation. One very good way of intuitively and unconsciously acquiring good language possession is through the reading of good novels like the one you are treating.

As you read very many novels, you will have no difficulty in your syntax and grammar.

Buy and read as many simple novels you can afford.

3.4 Transposition

You are not likely to have forgotten what transposition is. You cannot afford to forget it. There are some examples in the text. But first what is transposition? It is the grammatical change of a part of speech that occurs during translation. Some examples in the text are:

He breathed heavily – Sa respiration était forte
“Breathed” is a verb (past participle), but it is translated as a noun (respiration - breath)

“He”, a personal pronoun is replaced with “sa”, possessive pronoun in French.

“The old men” is translated as “les vieux”.

Ordinarily, “vieux” is an adjective but the use of the plural article or determinant “les” makes it to mean “old men”.

Debtor (noun) – endetté (participe passé)

He had no patience with unsuccessful men –

Il n’avait aucune patience avec les homes qui ne réussissaient pas.

“Unsuccessful” is an adjective. It is translated as “ne réussissaient pas” which is a verb.

4.0 Conclusion

You have read at least a few paragraphs of *Le monde s'effondre* which is the French version of *Things Fall Apart*. Your vocabulary has improved tremendously. Recall some of them like : *terrasser, lutteur, la cuisse, sourcils broussailleux, massif, bégayer.*

5.0 Summary

You have seen in a more practical sense what literary translation entails. You have been reminded also of transposition.

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

Get the English version for the following words, expressions and sentences in the passage : **nerfs, se dessinaient en relief sur leurs bras, était resté invaincu, il se servait de ses poings.**

7.0 References

Achebe, C. (1958) : *Things Fall Apart*, London, Heinemann

Achebe, C. (1972): *Le monde s'effondre*, Dakar, Présence Africaine, translated into French by Michel Ligny.