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AUTUMN 2013

◆ WITH A SONG IN OUR ART at TRANSLATION ACES! ◆



Sing along with what **TRANSLATION** means to Google [per *Der Spiegel*]:

The Google Translate team is known to have grown considerably and includes several German computer scientists, **but not a single linguist** [!]. A team leader actually said, "On the contrary, I have trouble learning languages," pointing out "...that's precisely the beauty of machine translation: the most important thing is to be good at math and statistics and to be able to program."

YIKES, say we.

Dictionaries, grammatical structures and all the rules normally fed into translation programs to mimic human translators hardly play a role for Google, since rules often may be too much for a computer to handle.

In the end, they admittedly merely "compute the probabilities of translation."

We human linguists can handle anything!

SINGING, whether for one's supper, praises, tattling, or vocalese is an abstract concept not only used in every society the world over but is most likely the first sounds any newborn of any species might hear or discern.

The name of **Sing Sing** prison has nothing to do with being incarcerated for tattling (think: James Cagney, "You Dirty Rat") but rather was derived from a Native American Nation ("Sinck Sinck") who sold the land in 1685.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY!

Translators and interpreters the world over now mark September 30 as their day, since it's the Feast Day of St. Jerome, the patron saint of librarians, scripture scholars, students and, of course, translators and interpreters. Yet though canonized by the Catholic church, St. Jerome's work was not perfect. He acknowledged his own fallibility and made a few errors himself.

Perhaps his most famous mistranslation put horns on Moses' head: the original Hebrew (Exodus 34) stated that when Moses descended from Mt. Sinai, he had "rays of light" coming from his head.

The Hebrew word can also mean "horns," and Jerome chose the latter.

And in 1515, when Michelangelo sculpted a marble Moses, he relied on Jerome's description in the Latin translation; the resulting horned statue can be seen in Rome today.



We linguists *do* seek perfection, though!

◆ THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT ◆

We recently translated a legal waiver and release into **Japanese, Spanish, French, Portuguese** and **Hmong**, among other languages!

私はここに、該プログラムに、またはそれに
関連し、また該プログラムの関連公告、パプ
リシティおよびプロモーション

Por la presente, estoy de acuerdo en no
utilizar o incluir, ni autorizar a terceros para
que utilicen o incluyan ...

Pelo presente instrumento, concordo em não
usar ou incluir, ou autorizar outros a usarem
ou incluírem, ...

Yog li ntawd kuv yuav tshaj tawm, tiv thaiv
kom txhob pub puas thiab kuv pom zoo them
cov nuj nqi rau qhov ua puas rau Pawg Raug
Tso Cai uas tej ...

◆ FEATURE ◆ Lingua Quiz!

1. WHERE can you buy these answers for a **song** or

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| (a) for twopence | (1) Barcelona |
| (b) für 'nen Appel und 'n Ei (for an apple and an egg) | (2) Bordeaux |
| (c) pour une bouchée de pain | (3) Bristol |
| (d) for a trifle | (4) Berlin |
| (e) deshevle parenoy repy [cheaper than boiled turnip] | (5) Birmingham |
| (f) por un comino [for a seed] | (6) Bryansk |

2. MIX & MATCH these definitions

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| (1) Evensong | (a) Complaining |
| (2) Singalong | (b) Song of one or more birds |
| (3) Swan song | (c) Bird able to produce song rather than screech |
| (4) Birdsong | (d) Informal group singing |
| (5) Songbird | (e) Farewell appearance or pronouncement |
| (6) Singing the blues | (f) Prayer at night |

3. MIX & MATCH the word for TRANSLATION and its language

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| (1) ترجمة إلى العربية | (a) Russian |
| (2) Traduction | (b) Romanian |
| (3) Traducción | (c) Portuguese |
| (4) Překlad | (d) Polish |
| (5) Vertaling | (e) Hungarian |
| (6) Übersetzung | (f) Swedish |
| (7) Fordítás | (g) Dutch |
| (8) Traduzione | (h) Turkish |
| (9) Tłumaczenie | (i) Czech |
| (10) Tradução | (j) Spanish |
| (11) Traducere | (k) French |
| (12) Preklad | (l) Slovak |
| (13) Översättning | (m) German |
| (14) Çeviri | (n) Italian |
| (15) Перевод | (o) Arabic |

ANSWERS:

1. (a) = (5); (b) = (4); (c) = (2); (d) = (5); (e) = (6); (f) = (1).
2. (1) = (f); (2) = (d); (3) = (e); (4) = (b); (5) = (c); (6) = (a).
3. (1) = (o); (2) = (k); (3) = (j); (4) = (i); (5) = (g); (6) = (m); (7) = (e); (8) = (n); (9) = (d); (10) = (c); (11) = (b); (12) = (l); (13) = (f); (14) = (h); (15) = (a).