

# MT and CAT in Literary (Re-)translation



St. Jerome's Days, Prague

1 November 2019

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# Literary Translation, MT and CAT

- Some literary *biotranslators* object to translation tools:-
- **Machine Translation (MT):**
  - 'It's not good enough'
  - 'Post-editing is soul-destroying and slows me down'
  - 'MT impedes my own creativity'
- **Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT):**
  - 'Translation memory is only good for repetitive texts'
  - 'CAT is only useful for technical language'
  - 'Segmentation makes me lose sight of the context'
- Overall, translation tools are often said to restrict creative freedom

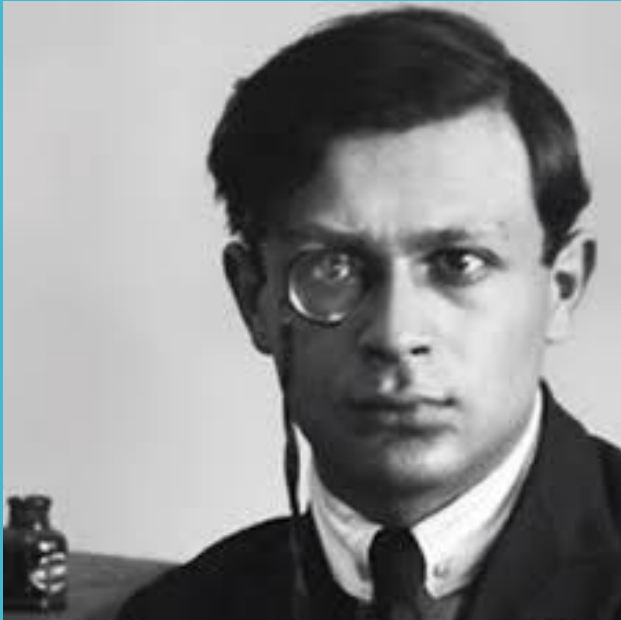


Walter  
Benjamin  
(1892-1940)

- **'Die Aufgabe des Übersetzers'**
  - Gnostic and mystical?
  - Task – or renunciation (giving up)?
  - WB dismisses fluent, sense-for-sense translation of 'inessential content' (= meaning)
  - Values 'Art des Meinens', 'dichterisch' moves
  - Babel fragmented the ideal 'reine Sprache' (Pure Language)
  - Translations must *follow* ('folgen') the ST's *way of meaning*, not seek equivalence
  - **Juxtaposed** fragments of a shattered vessel – express 'the central reciprocal relationship between languages'

# Case Study 1:

Paris Dada and Machine Translation



Tristan Tzara,  
'Manifeste Dada  
1918' (*Dada 3*,  
December 1918)

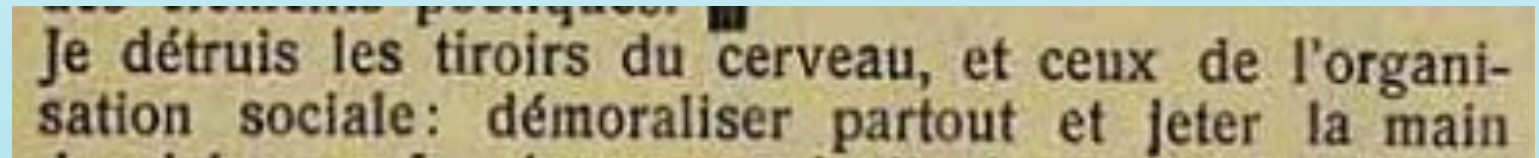


- Dada Digital Library,  
<http://sdr.lib.uiowa.edu/dada/digitaldadalib/index.html>

# Dada, language, and Machine Translation

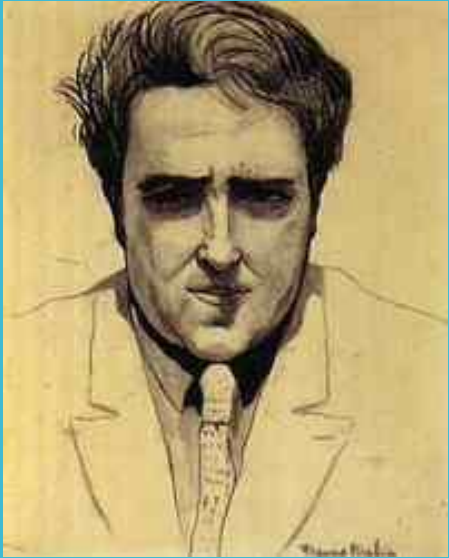


- Dada means nothing.  
If you find it futile (don't?) waste your time on a word that means nothing...

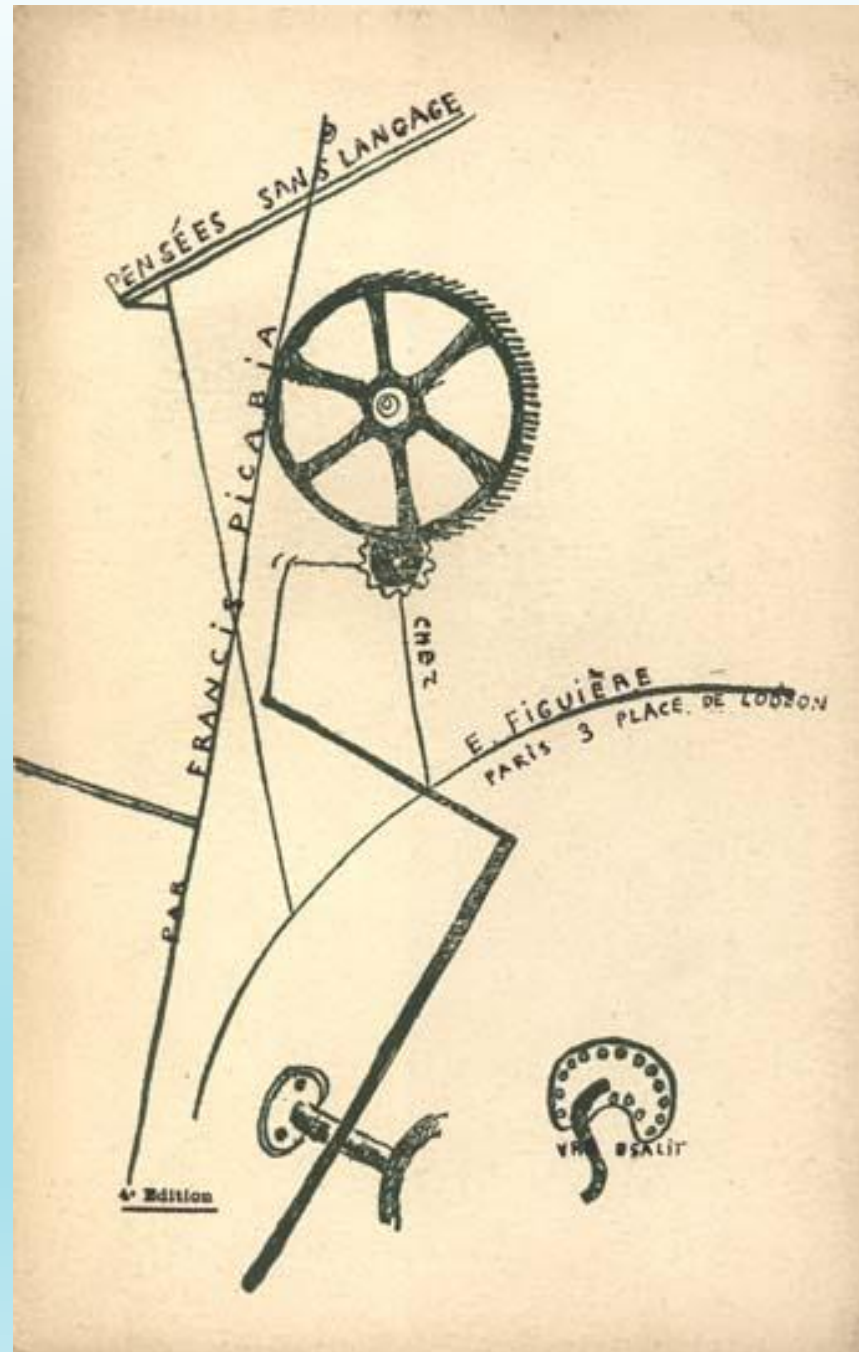


- I destroy the drawers of the brain, and those of the social order: demoralise everywhere...
- MT, however, aims to embody **normal language-use** and create 'equivalence'...





Francis Picabia,  
*Pensées sans  
langage* (Paris:  
Eugène Figuière,  
1919)



## PRÉFACE

Un courant condensateur désaimante l'étincelle, tandis que l'atmosphère raréfiée à l'extrême, sépare les fonds gazeux par une électricité de paraffine. Le socle négatif de la machine prend naissance dans une grosse boule, hypothèse d'intérêts de petite taille dans un parc spécial. Les pierres précieuses ont la même dimension accidentellement et en dessous. Pour éviter l'indicateur disponible, la bobine de verre aura la forme de pénétration sur la plaque visuelle d'un tube fugitif ou sur une solution simultanément neuve, munie d'un vide égal à la somme des énergies hors d'usage.

Ce livre est la radiographie des rayons montrant le mieux la netteté voilée des substances qu'exige l'aiguille fermée.

UDNIE.

# Language as irrational, dysfunctional machine – but translation?

- An electro-mechanical 'machine', described in pseudo-technical language, is a self-destructing metaphor for language
- Rules of French grammar and syntax are obeyed, but...
- 'Description' is non-systematic (how do the bits fit together?)
- Lexical patterning is unconventional:
  - Unlinked domains (e.g. *intérêts* is arguably financial...)
  - Ambiguous ontological relations (e.g. *électricité de parafine*)
  - Numerous marked concrete-abstract collocations (e.g. *socle négatif, tube fugitif, aiguille fermée, netteté voilée*)
  - Gestures towards relational coherence (e.g. *munie d'un vide*) and causation...
  - and surface cohesion that does not support textual coherence
- How best to translate a parodic, 'mechanical' text that plays with and frustrates our strong instinct for sense-making?
- Perhaps with another 'dysfunctional' machine...





## Systran Premium 4.0 (used in 2007)

- **Rule-Based Machine Translation (RBMT)**
- Workstation based
- Attempts to achieve TT-ST equivalence of meaning through linguistic analysis ('black box' rules)
- Analyses ST linguistic input using (probably) ...
  - dictionary (lexicon) equivalences at word level
  - syntactic parsing, morphological reduction and part of speech tagging
  - transfer routines, including bilingual lexicons
- Constructs the TT according to TL-specific rules
- User input often required to resolve lexical ambiguity
- No knowledge of context
- Out-of-range input can cause serious degradation of output quality
- *Q: What would Systran make of Dada anti-texts?*

## Systran 4 (2007)

### Preface

A condensing current demagnetizes the spark, while the atmosphere, rarefied to the extreme, separates the gas funds by an electricity from paraffin. The negative base of the machine occurs in a large ball, assumption of interests of small size in a special park. The invaluable stones have same dimension accidentally and below. To avoid the indicator available, the reel of glass will have the form of penetration on the visual plate of a fugitive tube or on a simultaneously new solution, provided with a vacuum equal to the sum of energies out of use.

This book is the radiography of the rays showing best the buckled clearness of the substances than requires the closed needle.

UDNIE

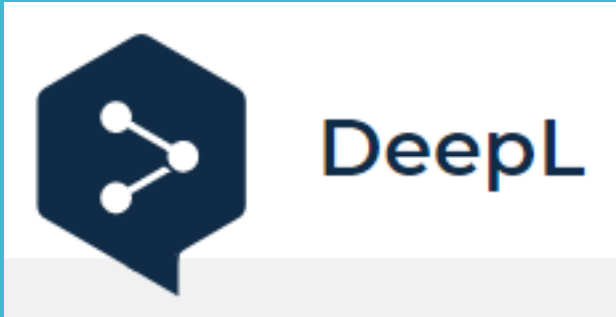
Translation by  
Marc  
Lowenthal,  
*I Am a  
Beautiful  
Monster*  
(p. 153)

### *Preface*

A **capacitor current** demagnetizes the spark, while the extremely rarified atmosphere separates the **gaseous content** through paraffin electricity. The machine's negative **bedplate** takes the form of a large ball, a hypothesis of small interests in a special park. The precious stones **accidentally have the same dimensions underneath**. In order to avoid the receptive gauge, the glass coil will take the form of penetrating the visual plate of a fugitive tube **or of** a simultaneously new solution, equipped with a vacuum equal to the sum of the **unemployed** energies.

*This book is the radiograph of the radiation best showing the veiled clarity of the substances called for by the **closed switch**.*

UDNIE



## DeepL Translator (2019)

- **Neural Machine Translation** (NMT) – emerged in 2016
- Online at <https://www.deepl.com/en/translator>
- No linguistic rules or 'knowledge'
- Probabilistic treatment of SL/TL equivalence
- Neural network trained on a large parallel corpus ('black box')
- Arguably, therefore, context-aware
- Improved results for diverse language pairs
- Produces output that can be (deceptively) fluent
- Better at simulating 'normal' language production
- *Q: How would NMT output differ from RBMT of Systran?*
- *Q: Which would be more 'faithful' to the spirit of Dada?*
- *Q: Implications for Benjamin's 'pure language'?*

# DeepL (2019)

## Preface

A condenser current demagnetizes the spark, while the atmosphere, which is extremely rarefied, separates the gas bottoms by paraffin electricity. The negative base of the machine originates in a large ball, a hypothesis of small interests in a special park. The gemstones have the same size accidentally and underneath. To avoid the available indicator, the glass coil will have the form of penetration on the visual plate of a fugitive tube or on a simultaneously new solution, provided with a vacuum equal to the sum of the end-of-life energies.

This book is the radiograph of the rays that best shows the veiled sharpness of the substances required by the closed needle.

UDNIE



# Tristan Tzara, 'La Queue du diable est une bicyclette' (Dada 7, March 1920)



## VÉLODROME AUX OIGNONS

## ARTICHAUTS

le mariage 1/3 est aussi un résultat de la vie maritime comme la fin de phrase voilà et nat le fleur remue la queue on lui met des ventouses de lampes électriques il croit à l'inviolabilité des négations valables pour un mois il est donc très gentil et extrêmement sympathique le téléphone nous reste fidèle comme un chien nickel dit le dadaïste il baille baille les rideaux avalent la lumière des rues Aa envoie express tout cela pour l'exposition des colonies le monde normal le mien phosphate le tribunal est un raid conjugal entre la poudrière la manivelle la manifestation et les bagages des grains de migraine savon lunaire et hors-d'œuvre avantage ont adopté un fils nouveau vierge et l'ont caché dans le puits garage Il y a encore le cancer de la lampe rouge du corridor et la mûcheotte enguitlandée d'ongles attend le nain le truie et le lapin monsieur Aa attend le courrier l'applaudissement civil de l'attentat criminel et perpétuel

Tristan TZARA

## La queue du diable est une bicyclette

la morsure épaissiale dans le roc bleu  
accable la nuit senteur intime de beccaux amonéique  
la fleur est un réverbère peupée écoute le mercure qui monte  
qui montre le moulin à vent accroché au viaduc

avant-hier n'est pas la céramique des chrysanthèmes qui tourne la tête  
et le fond  
l'heure a sonné dans ta bouche  
encore un ange brisé qui tombe comme un excrément de vautour  
étend l'accolade sur le désert laud  
lambeaux d'oreilles rongées lèpre les

Tristan TZARA

Dada n'est plus que quelques années ou quelques mois ou quelques jours à venir, cherche un notaire pour lui corder ses dernières volontés.

Les mathématiques Dada n'ont pas encore été cultivées. Jusqu'à présent l'étude du nombre a rendu complètement idiot. L'idiot est le spécialiste du mathématicien.

Il y a aussi quelque chose qu'on ne connaît pas : c'est le dadaïsme dada. Mais Dada a des manières jusqu'aux osselets.

Dada doute de tout. On dit : cela n'est ni principe. Non, le doute n'est pas ni principe. Mais quand cela sera si Dada croit au doute, cela prouvera qu'il n'a pas de principe.

Quand Dada verra que les cochons châtés commencent à avoir la voix jaugue, il fera comme l'ode. Il se suicidera. Et il revivra dans l'air respiré par les cochons châtés et dans leur langue. Et les cervelles que l'on servira au repas familial seront malgré tout possédées par Dada.

Dada, o Dada, quelle figure ? Se traite ? Se guie ? Regarde-toi dans la glace. Non non, ne te regarde pas.

Qu'est-ce que c'est beau ? Qu'est-ce que c'est laid ? Qu'est-ce que c'est grand, fort, faible ? Qu'est-ce que c'est Carpenter, Remon, Foch ? Connais pas. Qu'est-ce que c'est moi ? Connais pas. Connais pas, connais pas, connais pas.

Regarde les arts ou l'intérieur de l'homme avec une demi-montre de châtée c'est une occupation artistique. Et la seule occupation des hommes. Et pleurent, se pleurent comme si l'organe entré dans la composition du verre.

Il est intéressant de noter à quel point appartiennent les sources d'illusions offertes à Dada Polaque et marquis. Dada a une grosse dent à manger. Mais Dada est difficile à défaire la verge est étroite.

Georges ROZEMONT-DESSAIGNES.



Philippe SOUPAULT

## Systran 4 (2007)

### The tail of the devil is a bicycle

the equatorial bite in the turned blue rock  
overpower the intimate night scent of cradles ammonia  
the flower is a reverberator headstock listens to the mercury which goes  
up  
who shows the windmill fixed on the viaduct

day before yesterday is not the ceramics of the chrysanthemums which  
turns the head and the cold

the hour sounded in your mouth  
still a broken angel which falls like an excrement from vulture  
the accodance extends on the faded desert  
scraps of corroded ears leprosy iron

## DeepL (2019)

The devil's tail is a bicycle

the equatorial bite in the blue rock  
overwhelms the night with the intimate scent of ammonia cradles  
the flower is a lamp post doll listens to the rising mercury  
which shows the windmill attached to the viaduct

the day before yesterday is not the ceramics of chrysanthemums  
that turn the head and the cold  
the time has come in your mouth  
another broken angel falling like a vulture's dung  
extends the embrace over the faded desert  
gnawed ear flaps iron leprosy

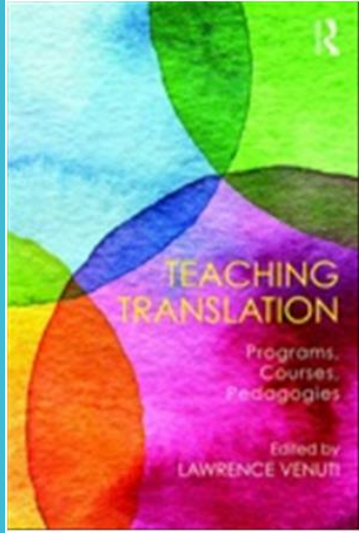
# Conclusions: Systran, DeepL and Benjamin

- Even where the Dada ST is deliberately *referentially* incoherent, DeepL is capable of producing a **fluent-looking** TT, rather like that of the '**biotranslator**'
- Systran makes syntactic 'errors' and is markedly less fluent...
- but arguably more Dada in not concealing the ST's logical and referential disjunctions and ambiguities.
- A dysfunctional machine translates a dysfunctional text about language as a dysfunctional machine...
- ... follows its *Art des (nicht) Meinens*...
- ... but also reveals undecidable ambiguities (e.g. *poupée*) that the monolingual French reader, the human translator and DeepL all miss.
- Systran's Dada translations, with their apparently unmotivated and weird decisions, are therefore the more Benjaminian...
- pointing up the *complementary differences* between different fragments of pure language

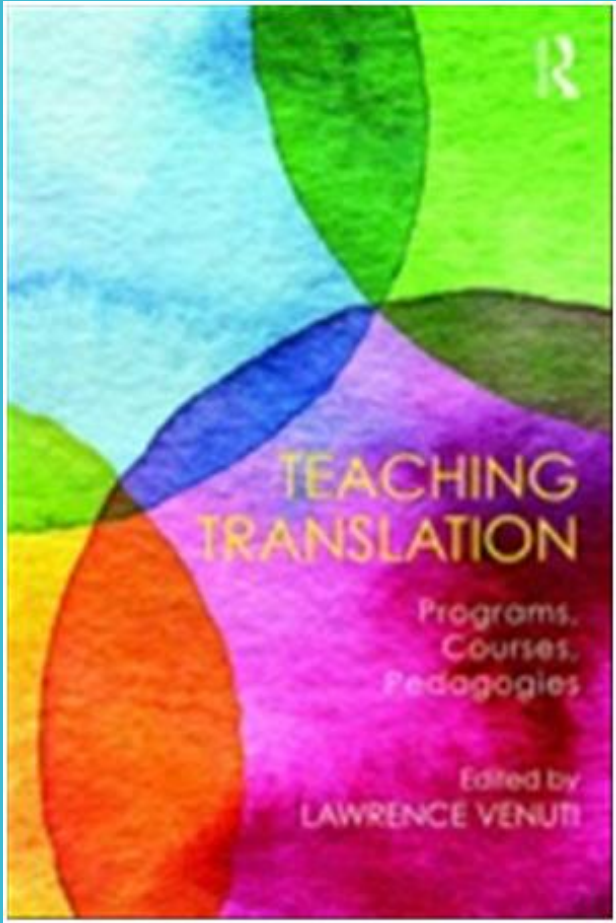
**INTERMISSION**



Lawrence  
Venuti: 'The  
hermeneutic  
model,' *Teaching  
Translation* (2017),  
p.8



- [Literary] Translation is [...] **an interpretive act that varies the form, meaning and effect of the ST according to the intelligibilities and interests of the translating [target] culture.** The variation is inevitable, driven in the first place by the structural differences between languages and by the differences in values, beliefs, and representations between cultures.
- Translation works by detaching the ST from the set of contexts—linguistic and cultural, institutional and social—that constitute it as a signifying process and by **building another set of contexts that constitute the translated text so as to permit it to signify in another language and culture.**



- The process involves, on the one hand, a **loss** of intricate relations between source-language features and source-culture contexts and, on the other hand, a **gain** of comparable relations between translating-language features and translating-culture contexts.
- These two movements are simultaneous, and [...] they result in **the inscription of an interpretation in the source text that answers to the receiving situation.**

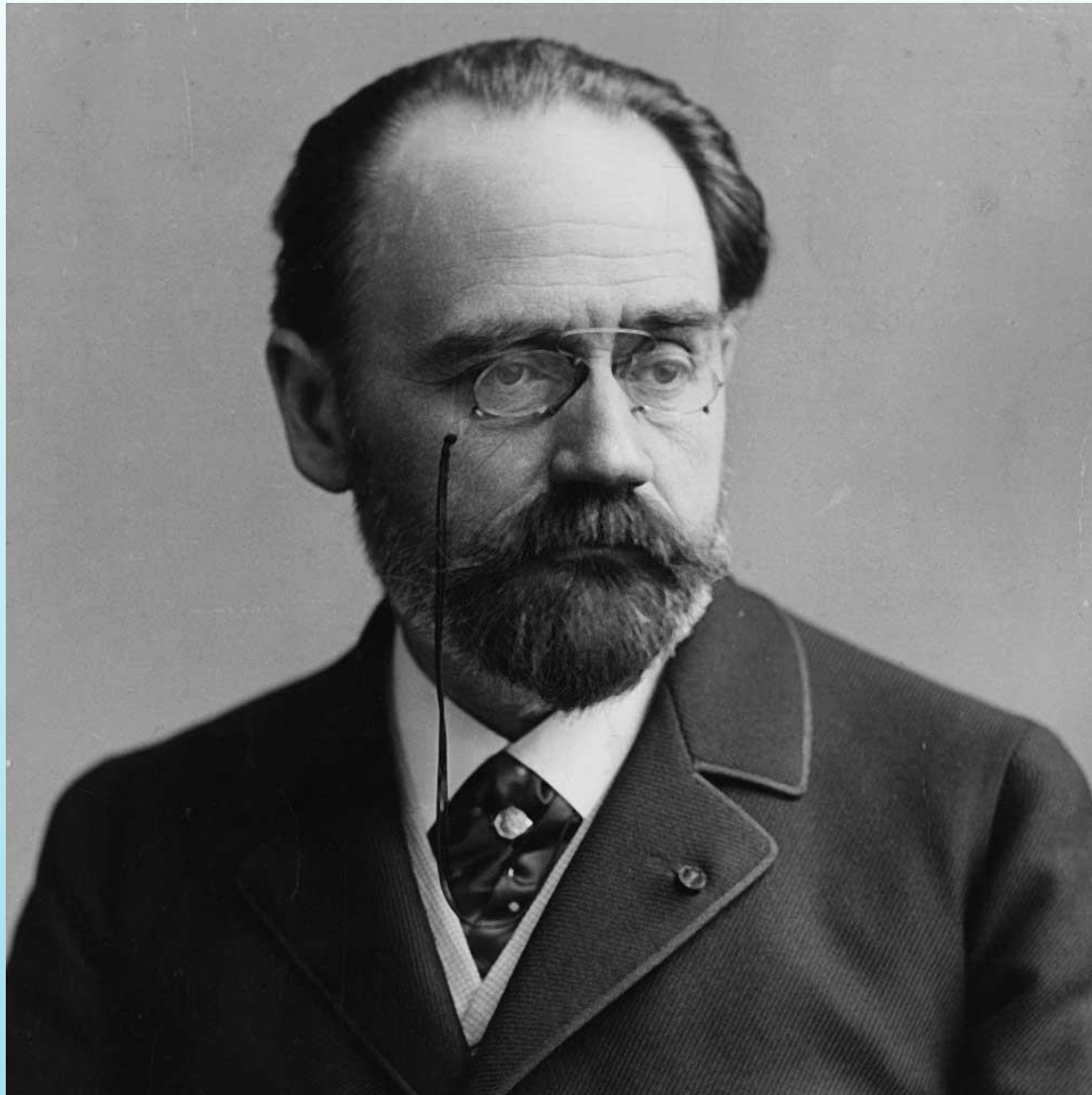
# Case Study 2:

Retranslating Emile Zola in Stereo

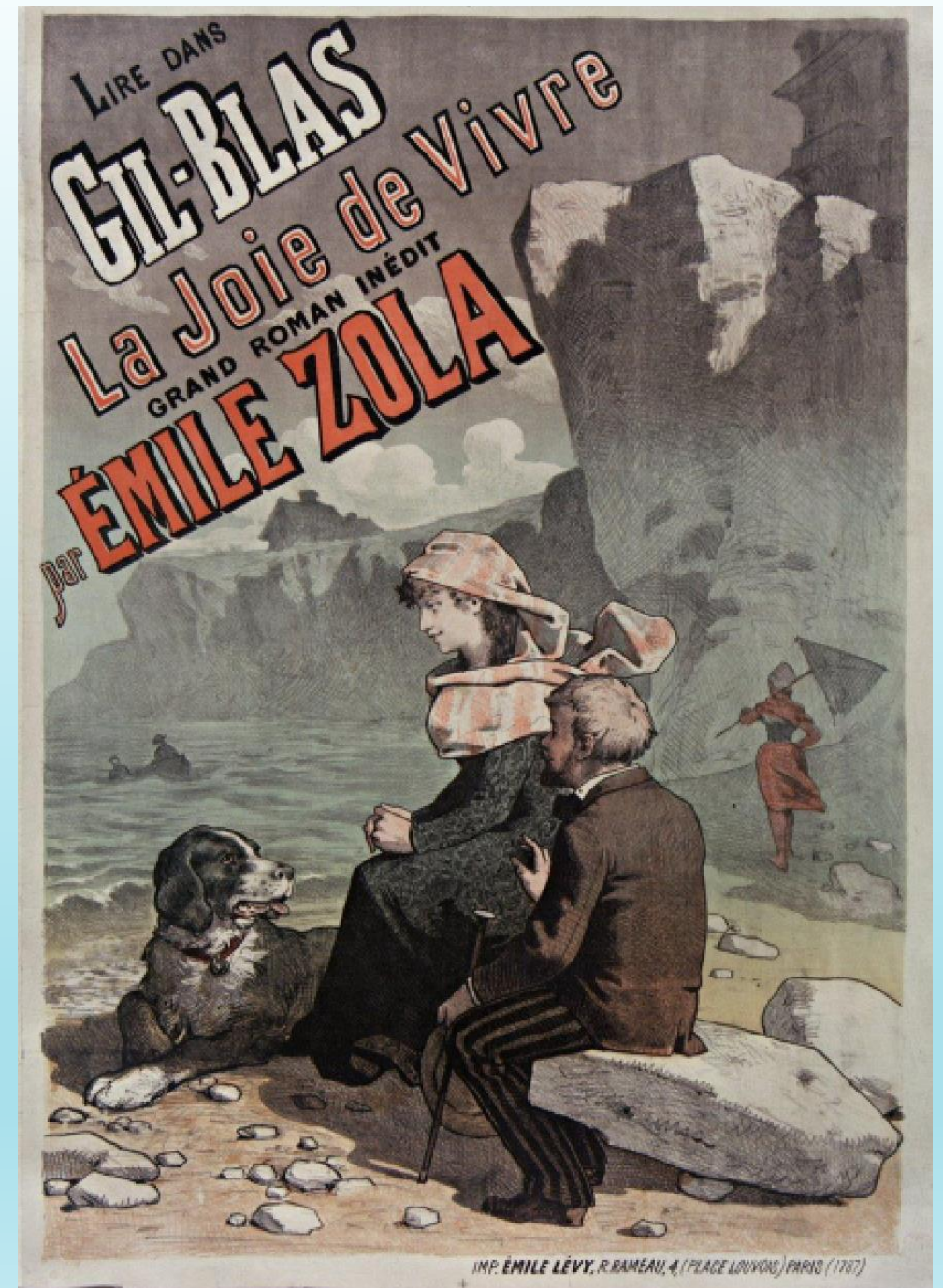
## Initial considerations for the literary (re-)translator

- Historical distance
- Cultural distance (politics, religion, realia, institutions, social conventions...)
- Existence of previous translations
- Genre of the text (poem? play? novel?...)
- Function and position of the ST in its culture and era
- Function of the new TT – readership, purpose, value-system
- **Translation strategy** – foreignise? archaise? update? (often dictated by market expectations and publisher's contract)
- Lesson from Venuti, functionalists and others: **there is no single 'right' answer or 'correct' strategy**





Emile Zola (1840-1902)

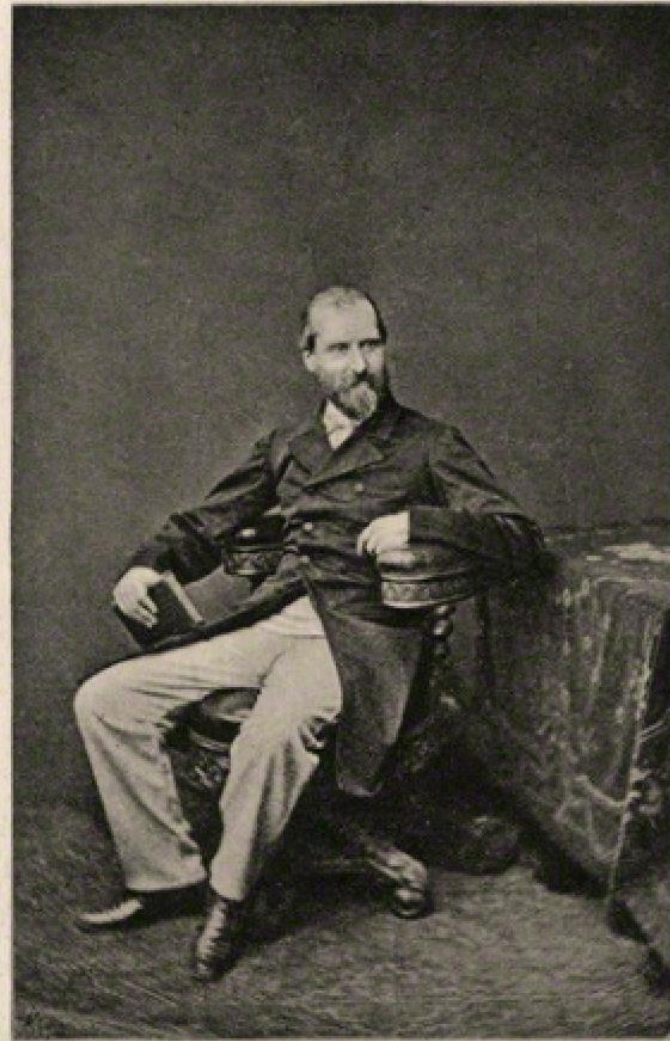




# Critical evaluations and English translations of *La Joie de vivre*

- **French review:** 'l'un des meilleurs romans d'amour écrits sous la Troisième République' (survey in *Le Figaro*, cited in Franzén, 1958: 9)
- **English review:** 'Mainly a colourless lifeless novel, the story introduces ten-year-old Pauline as an impossibly angelic child who grows into an impossibly angelic adult [...] This smell of burning martyr – which reminds me of Dickens in his worst sentimental moments – continues throughout the novel.' (Anon. blog, 14 June 2009)
- Translation alignment gives a close-up view of this disparity
- Ernest Alfred Vizetelly (1887) – *How Jolly Life Is* (later, *The Joy of Life*)
- Jean Stewart (1955) *Zest for Life* – long out of print
- AR (2018), *The Bright Side of Life* (Oxford World's Classics)

# Zola's Victorian Mediators into English



*Henry Vizetelly*

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN 1863



Ernest Alfred Vizetelly



# Alignment with LF Aligner

74 LF Alignment Editor 1.5 - aligned_JV Chapter 3 fr-JV Ch3 Vizetelly.txt			
File Edit Help			
1	La Joie de vivre Émile Zola 1884 <862>		JV Chapter 3 fr-JV CH3 Vizetelly
2	Chapitre 3	CHAPTER III	JV Chapter 3 fr-JV CH3 Vizetelly
3	Deux jours plus tard, une grande marée découvrait les roches profondes.	Two days later a very low tide laid the rocks quite bare.	JV Chapter 3 fr-JV CH3 Vizetelly
4	Dans le coup de passion qui emportait Lazare au début de chaque entreprise nouvelle, il ne voulut pas attendre davantage, il partit jambes nues, une veste de toile simplement jetée sur son costume de bain ; et Pauline était de l'enquête, en costume de bain elle aussi, chaussée de gros souliers, qu'elle réservait pour la pêche aux crevettes.	Lazare, brimming over with the wild enthusiasm which always filled him at the outset of any of his new schemes, was impatient to be off to the seaweed. So away he hurried, with bare legs and just a canvas jacket over his bathing-costume. Pauline went with him to share in his investigations. She, too, wore a bathing costume and the heavy shoes which she used when bound on shrimping expeditions.	JV Chapter 3 fr-JV CH3 Vizetelly
5	Quand ils furent à un kilomètre des falaises, au milieu du champ des algues ruisselant encore du flot qui se retirait, l'enthousiasme du jeune homme éclata, comme s'il découvrait cette moisson immense d'herbes marines, qu'ils avaient cent fois traversée ensemble.	When they had got about half a mile from the cliffs, and had reached the centre of the spreading tract of seaweed, still streaming with the water of the ebbing tide, the young man's enthusiasm burst forth as if he were only now discovering that immense crop of marine plants over which he and Pauline had rambled a hundred times before.	JV Chapter 3 fr-JV CH3 Vizetelly
6	-- Regarde ! regarde ! criait-il. En voilà de la marchandise !...	`Look! look!' he cried; `what money we shall make out of it all;	JV Chapter 3 fr-JV CH3 Vizetelly
7	Et on n'en fait rien, et il y en a ainsi jusqu'à plus de cent mètres de profondeur !	and nobody has ever thought of making any use of it before!'	JV Chapter 3 fr-JV CH3 Vizetelly
8	Quis il lui nommait les espèces	Then he began to point out to her the	JV Chapter 3 fr-JV CH3 Vizetelly
Merge (F1) Split (F2) Shift up (F3) Shift down (F4)			

# Re-translating *La Joie de vivre* in memoQ

memoQ - Zola JV3

memoQ

Project Documents Preparation Translation Review Edit View Quick Access

Concordance

Look Up Term

memoQ Web Search

Search

Add Term

Quick Add Term

Add Non-Translatable

Confirm

Store

Mark Text

Comments

Comments And Proofing

Copy

Cut

Paste

Clipboard

Format

Tag

Tags

Split

Join

Split/Join

Find

Replace

Find/Replace

Project home

JV Chapter 3 fr.docx

Source

Target

Sort No sorting

326.

Le désastre était prévu, les Chanteau n'en reçurent pas moins un coup terrible.

Though the disaster was not unexpected, it came as a terrible blow to the Chanteaus.

0%

327.

Ils restaient avec leurs trois mille francs de rente. Tout ce qu'ils purent tirer de la débâcle, une douzaine de mille francs, fut aussitôt placé et leur compléta, en tout, trois cents francs par mois.

They were left with three thousand francs a year from their investments in stocks, and everything they were able to rescue from the collapse of the timber business, some twelve thousand francs, was also invested at once to bring their total income to three hundred a month.

88%

328.

Aussi madame Chanteau, dès la seconde quinzaine, dut-elle prendre cinquante francs sur l'argent de Pauline : le boucher de Verchemont attendait avec sa note, on ne pouvait le renvoyer.

And so by the second fortnight Madame Chanteau was obliged to take fifty francs more of Pauline money: the butcher from Verchemont was waiting with his bill, and she could not send him away unpaid.

85%

329.

Puis, ce furent cent francs pour l'achat d'une lessiveuse, jusqu'à des dix <878> francs de pommes de terre et des cinquante sous de poisson.

Then there were a hundred francs to buy a washing-machine, ten <878>more for potatoes, and fifty sous now and again for fish.

85%

330.

Elle en était arrivée à entretenir Lazare et l'usine, par petites sommes honteuses, au jour le jour ; et elle tomba plus bas, aux centimes du ménage, aux trous de la dette bouchés misérablement.

She had come to the point of providing for the needs of Lazare and the works in wretched little sums, which she doled out day by day.

85%

331.

Vers les fins de mois surtout, on la voyait sans cesse disparaître d'un pas discret et revenir presque aussitôt, la main dans sa poche, d'où elle se décidait à sortir, pour une facture, des sous un à un.

Towards the end of each month she was often to be seen stealthily disappearing and then coming back again with her hand in her pocket, from which she reluctantly drew forth sou after sou, to make up the amount of a bill.

85%

Changed

Andy 10/11/2015 21:14

View pane

Unfortunately, that year Davoine was declared bankrupt. Though the disaster was not unexpected, it came as a terrible blow to the Chanteaus. They were left with three thousand francs a year from their investments in stocks, and everything they were able to rescue from the collapse of the timber business, some twelve thousand francs, was also invested at once to bring their total income to three hundred a month. And so by the second fortnight Madame Chanteau was obliged to take fifty francs more of Pauline money: the butcher from Verchemont was waiting with his bill, and she could not send him away unpaid. Then there were a hundred francs to buy a washing-machine, ten <878>more for potatoes, and fifty sous now and again for fish. She had come to the point of providing for the needs of Lazare and the works in wretched little sums, which she doled out day by day. Towards the end of each month she was often to be seen stealthily disappearing and then coming back again with her hand in her pocket, from which she reluctantly drew forth sou after sou, to make up the amount of a bill. L'habitude se trouvait prise, elle achevait de vivre sur le tiroir du secrétaire, emportée, ne résistant plus. Pourtant, dans l'obsession qui la ramenait toujours là, le meuble, lorsqu'elle baissait le tablier, jetait un léger cri, dont elle restait énervée. Quel vieux bahut ! dire qu'elle n'avait jamais pu s'acheter un bureau propre ! Ce secrétaire vénérable, qui, bourré d'une fortune, avait d'abord donné à la maison un air de gaieté et de richesse, la ravageait aujourd'hui, était comme la boîte empoisonnée de tous les fléaux, lâchant le malheur par ses fentes.

Un soir, Pauline rentra de la cour, en criant :  
— Le boulanger !... On lui doit trois jours, deux francs quatre-vingt-cinq.

Madame Chanteau se fouilla.

Translation results

Vers les fins de mois surtout, on la voyait sans cesse disparaître d'un pas ...

1

85%

Towards the end of each month she was often to be seen stealthily disapp...

Vers les fins de mois surtout, on la voyait sans cesse disparaître d'un pas ...

2

101%

Vers les fins de mois surtout, on la voyait sans cesse disparaître d'un pas discret et revenir presque aussitôt, la main dans sa poche, d'où elle se décidait à sortir, pour une facture, des sous un à un.

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Pro

Dom

23/07/2015 16:12:31

Joie de vivre

85%



memoQ - Zola JV3

memoQ

ProjectDocumentsPreparationTranslationReviewEditViewQuick Access

Concordance

Look Up Term

memoQ Web Search

Search

Confirm

Quick Add Term

Add Non-Translatable

Store

Mark Text

Comments

Comments And Proofing

Copy

Cut

Paste

Clipboard

Copy To

Target

Clipboard

Format

Tag

Insertion

Copy Next

Tag Sequence

Inline

Tags

Split

Join

Split/Join

Find

Replace

Find/Replace

Project home

JV Chapter 3 fr.docx

Source

Target

aA

Sort

No sorting

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Translation results

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View pane

Unfortunately, that year Davoine was declared bankrupt. Though the disaster was not unexpected, it came as a terrible blow to the Chanteaus. They were left with three thousand francs a year from their investments in stocks, and everything they were able to rescue from the collapse of the timber business, some twelve thousand francs, was also invested at once to bring their total income to three hundred a month. And so by the second fortnight Madame Chanteau was obliged to take fifty francs more of Pauline money: the butcher from Verchemont was waiting with his bill, and she could not send him away unpaid. Then there were a hundred francs to buy a washing-machine, ten <878>more for potatoes, and fifty sous now and again for fish. She had come to the point of providing for the needs of Lazare and the works in wretched little sums, which she doled out day by day. Towards the end of each month she was often to be seen stealthily disappearing and then coming back again with her hand in her pocket, from which she reluctantly drew forth sou after sou, to make up the amount of a bill. L'habitude se trouvait prise, elle achevait de vivre sur le tiroir du secrétaire, emportée, ne résistant plus. Pourtant, dans l'obsession qui la ramenait toujours là, le meuble, lorsqu'elle baissait le tablier, jetait un léger cri, dont elle restait énervée. Quel vieux bahut ! dire qu'elle n'avait jamais pu s'acheter un bureau propre ! Ce secrétaire vénérable, qui, bourré d'une fortune, avait d'abord donné à la maison un air de gaieté et de richesse, la ravageait aujourd'hui, était comme la boîte empoisonnée de tous les fléaux, lâchant le malheur par ses fentes.

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Madame Chanteau se fouilla.

Pro

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Joie de vivre



# Insights from alignment

- Vizetelly sometimes splits or joins Zola's sentences - interesting options for the re-translator
- Contemporary solutions to problems of Zola's style (numerous substantivized abstractions, over-use of pluperfect tense)
- Conventional expectations of late-C19 English novel style:
  - Tendency to verbose amplification
  - Frequent explicitation of spatial relations (e.g. as characters move around the house)
  - Reticence about *style indirect libre* (Goethe, Jane Austen, Flaubert...)
- Word-level *negative inscription* of **Victorian morality** and **ideology** through Vizetelly's self-censorship
- *Q: Why don't I want to translate it that way?*
- *Q: What will my readership expect?*

## Alignment of Chapter 10

7/8 PTK



Do you wish to revert to paragraph segmented files,  
or use the sentence segmented versions?

Segment numbers before and after segmentation:

French: 264 -> 730

English: 113 -> 323

- ☒ The segmenting seems to have gone well, so I'll use the sentence segmented texts
- ☐ Revert to the paragraph segmented versions

Note: you should revert to the paragraph segmented files if the segmentation pushed the files badly out of balance (they had a similar number of segments before but not after), especially if (one of) the files hardly gained any new segments.

Next

## Chapter 10: Louise's labour

- 20 pages of extreme emotion and medical detail in the ST;
- Vizetelly's TT summary:

It was one of those dread hours when life and death wrestle together, when human science and skill battle to overcome and correct the errors of Nature.

More than once did the Doctor pause, fearing a fatal issue.

The patient's agony was terrible, but at last science triumphed, and a child was born.

It was a boy.

# Vizetelly's unmentionables

- Feminine underclothes, undressing, nudity, body parts
- Puberty, menstruation
- Female desire (lust, jealousy)
- Physical contact between the sexes; bedrooms
- Feline reproductive behaviour
- Pregnancy and childbirth ('enceinte', 'accoucheuse', 'state of health' – 'midwife' never used)
- Illicit sexual relations (marital infidelity, prostitution, child mothers)
- Physiology (Lazare's medical textbooks):
  - 'machine humaine' (2:384), 'mécanique de la vie' (3:101), 'fragilité du mécanisme' (7:300); Louise's delivery in Ch. 10

## Consequences of EAV's self- censorship: a narrow *inscription*

- Pauline's character and motivations grossly simplified
- Most of the 'love triangle' drama flattened
- Pauline's agency (narrative, moral) weakened
- Zola's portrayal of Pauline as a woman is betrayed:
  - Bodily experience
  - Emotions
  - Self-education
- Theme of physiology and its link to Naturalism obliterated
- Victorian morality experienced in minute detail
- Zola's actual daring is set in sharp relief

## Chapter 8: Pauline's sexual jealousy (Vizetelly's reduction)

Alas! the harvest of love was not for her!

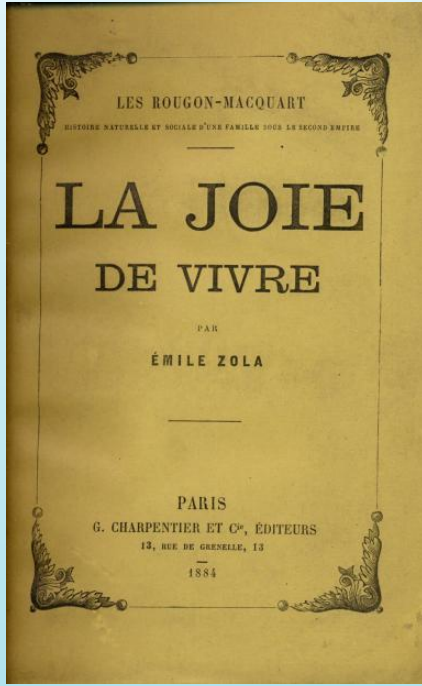
To another were given the embraces of that husband for whose coming she herself had looked forward for so many years!

Never would she be a wife or mother; the years would come and go, and she would age in utter loneliness.



D'un geste violent, elle fit glisser son jupon, enleva sa chemise ; et, nue maintenant, elle se contemplait encore. Ce n'était donc pas pour elle **cette moisson de l'amour** ? Jamais sans doute les noces ne viendraient. Son regard descendait de **sa gorge, d'une dureté de bouton éclatant de sève**, à ses hanches larges, à son ventre où dormait une maternité puissante. Elle était **mûre** pourtant, elle voyait la vie **gonfler** ses membres, **fleurir** aux **plis secrets de sa chair** en **toison noire**, elle respirait son odeur de femme, comme un **bouquet épanoui** dans l'attente de la **fécondation**. [...] Ah ! misère ! **la pluie rouge de la puberté** tombait là, aujourd'hui, pareille aux larmes vaines que sa virginité pleurait en elle. Désormais, chaque mois ramènerait **ce jaillissement de grappe mûre, écrasée aux vendanges**, et jamais elle ne serait femme, et elle vieillirait dans la stérilité !

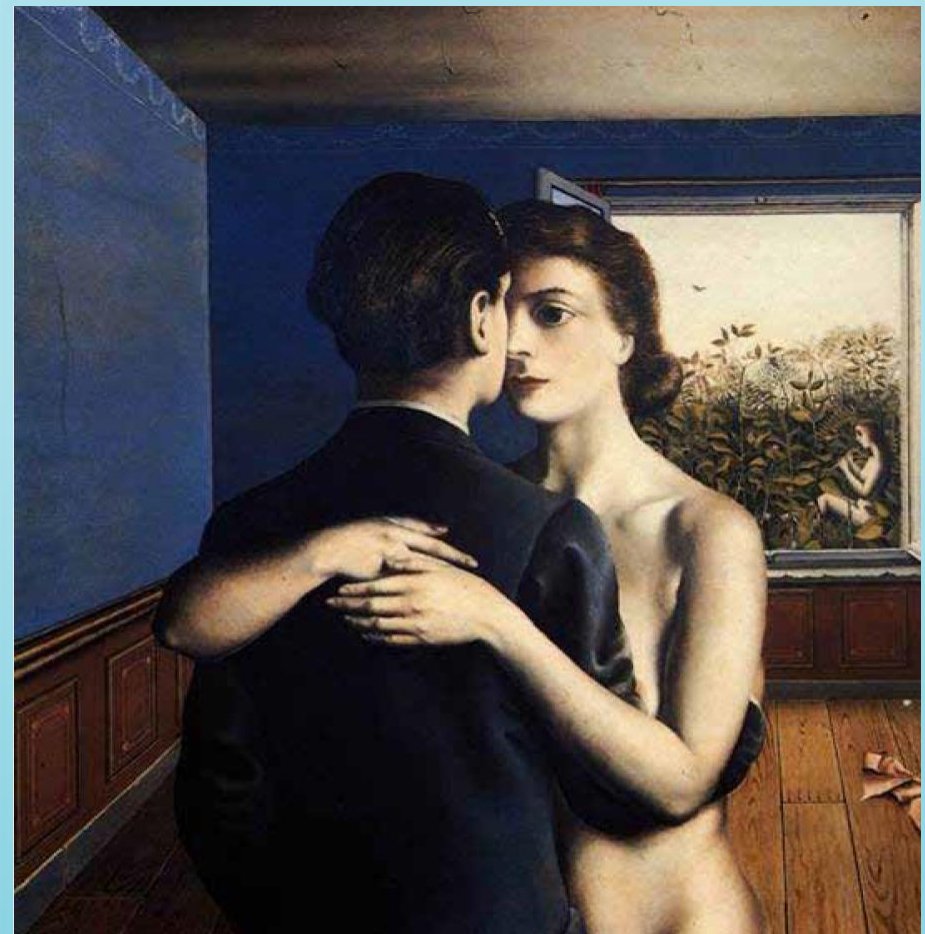
(Zola 1964: 1033-4)











Émile Zola  
The Bright Side of Life

A new translation by Andrew Rothwell

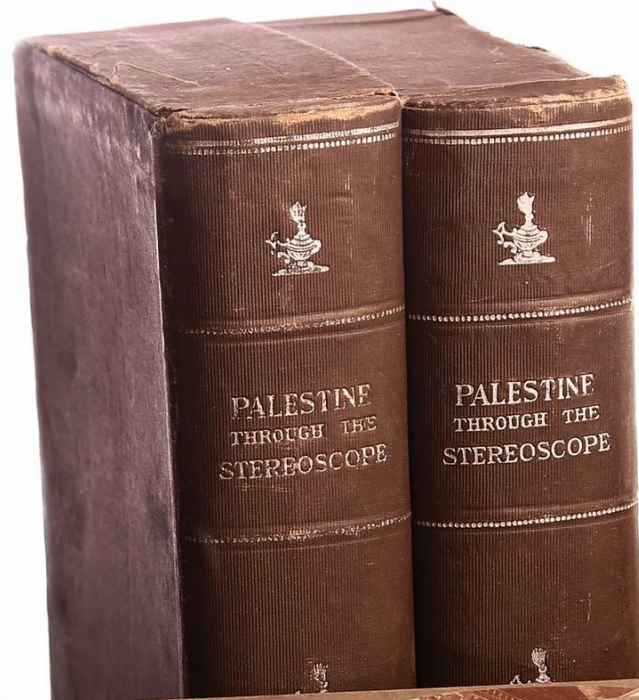
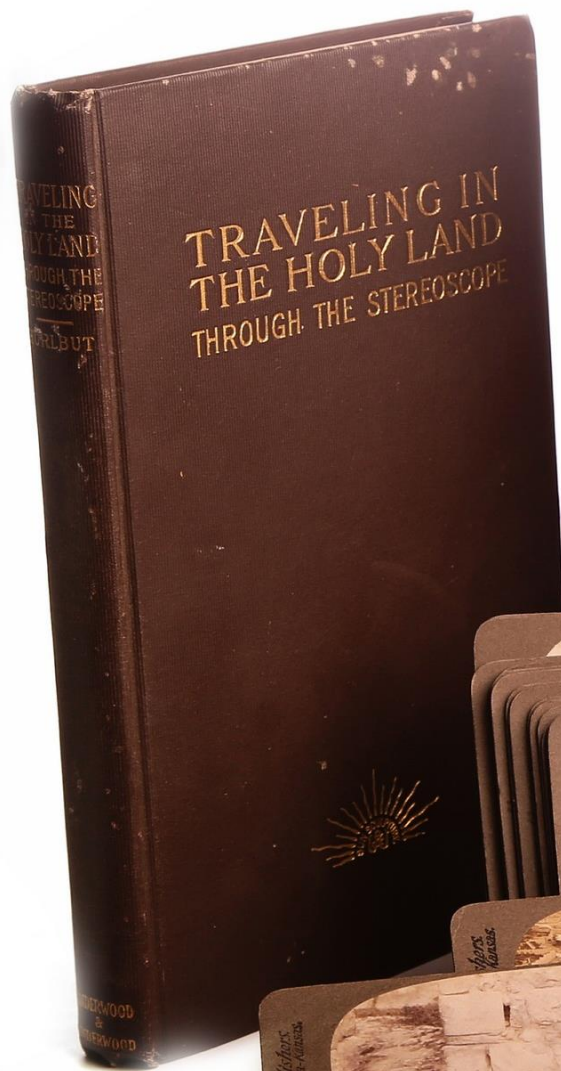
OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS



Monty Python - Always Look on the Bright Side of Life - YouTube ✓

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHPOzQzk9Qo>







Mills Auto-  
Stereoscope,  
c. 1905



'fragments of a vessel'?  
(Benjamin  
2012: 81)

memoQ - Zola JV3

memoQProjectDocumentsPreparationTranslationReviewEditViewQuick Access

Concordance

Look Up Term

memoQ Web Search

Add Term

Confirm

Quick Add Term

Add Non-Translatable

Mark Text

Comments

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Source

Target

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326.

Le désastre était prévu, les Chanteau n'en reçurent pas moins un coup terrible.

Though the disaster was not unexpected, it came as a terrible blow to the Chanteaus.

0%

327.

Ils restaient avec leurs trois mille francs de rente. Tout ce qu'ils purent tirer de la débâcle, une douzaine de mille francs, fut aussitôt placé et leur compléta, en tout, trois cents francs par mois.

They were left with three thousand francs a year from their investments in stocks, and everything they were able to rescue from the collapse of the timber business, some twelve thousand francs, was also invested at once to bring their total income to three hundred a month.

88%

328.

Aussi madame Chanteau, dès la seconde quinzaine, dut-elle prendre cinquante francs sur l'argent de Pauline : le boucher de Verchemont attendait avec sa note, on ne pouvait le renvoyer.

And so by the second fortnight Madame Chanteau was obliged to take fifty francs more of Pauline money: the butcher from Verchemont was waiting with his bill, and she could not send him away unpaid.

85%

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Puis, ce furent cent francs pour l'achat d'une lessiveuse, jusqu'à des dix <878> francs de pommes de terre et des cinquante sous de poisson.

Then there were a hundred francs to buy a washing-machine, ten <878>more for potatoes, and fifty sous now and again for fish.

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Andy 10/11/2015 21:14

View pane

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Translation results

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1

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Towards the end of each month she was often to be seen stealthily disapp...

Vers les fins de mois surtout, on la voyait sans cesse disparaître d'un pas ...

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Joie de vivre

85%

# Literary translation and MT/CAT tools?

- **Advantages of MT:**
  - Quick access to multiple options, including thesaurus
  - Can be interactive and adaptive (e.g. Lilt, <https://lilt.com/>)
  - Even 'errors' can offer valuable insights into the ST
- **Advantages of CAT:**
  - Avoids accidental omissions!
  - Avoids data loss (it's always in the TM)
  - No need to carry the book around
  - Makes revision easier
  - Particularly useful for a retranslation...
  - **Deeper (stereoscopic) reading of the ST...**
  - **... through alternative TL inscription(s)**

# The 'augmented (literary) translator'

- Contrary to the assumption of many translators, computerised tools potentially **enhance creativity** by
  - revealing unseen problems, ambiguities ('hot spots') in the ST
  - confirming or modifying local points of interpretation
  - revealing unforeseen possible translation solutions
  - giving access to other (historical) inscriptions of the text in one or more other language(s)
- However, an ideal CAT tool for literary (re-)translation needs a different focus from current commercial tools:
  - Facility to view and search multiple previous translations, potentially in different target languages
  - Access to input from different MT engines
  - MT to be interactive and adaptive, as currently in Lilt
  - Easy ST re-segmentation (join/split/move)
  - Simplified interface (no need for match statistics, pretranslation reports...)





# **Computer-Assisted Literary Translation Conference**

**Swansea University, 14-16 APRIL 2020**

**<https://calt2020conference.wordpress.com/>**

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