

While reading the two versions of "Drinking Wine" by Wislawa Szymborska, the translation differences can affect the way the poem is interpreted, and the perceived poeticism that comes with the change, as well as the writer's style throughout their works and how changing the translation affects that. One of the ones that I noticed is the difference between the lines, "I am imaginary to the point of no belief, imaginary to the point of blood" and the line "but I am a phantasm, a phantasm beyond belief, a phantasm to the core". The way I interpret Szymborska's work and how the Nobel Peace Prize committee says that she "makes the mundane beautiful and abstract", is that I think the first version illustrates in more depth and relatability, the idea of being imaginary. The use of the word Phantasm is objectively more poetic, but it feels like it makes the feeling less relatable and makes the feeling Szymborska is trying to describe less able to be universally felt. Another duo of lines that I think show the use of word choice in meaning in more detail are the lines, "I search for my reflection on a wall, I see only a nail from which a picture has been removed" and "I search for my reflection on the wall. All I see is a nail on which a painting hung". The meaning of this poem that I interpreted is that the subject of the poem saw her beauty from the perspective of one that loved her, but once he is out of her life and the photos of them together are removed from the wall, she is unable to find herself beautiful. This is better illustrated in the first translation, as the connotation of knowing that a picture the subject of the poem was searching for has since been removed, and it creates a sense of longing and grief, while the first translation feels as if the poem just ends by glossing over the meaning of the removed painting.