The quality of the existing output by DeepL was surprisingly high. There were quite a lot of sentences where I found that nothing had to be changed. The sentences were always grammatically correct as far as I could see, so all I had to do, really, was change a few words to match the tone of the story a bit more or that I felt the need to switch around the words a bit.

For example, in the first sentence of text 2, the one about the cabinet ministers being shot, I put the time in the morning at the start of the sentence, as well as cut out the word “kabinet" in front of the “ministers”, because I felt that was a bit redundant. In text 3, about the king in the garden, DeepL had translated “revolutionary committee” directly to “revolutionaire comité”, which to me has more another connotation than what was meant. The committee was there because of an actual revolution, while “revolutionair” in the way it was put, means more of just something that is radically new, but without the violence.

The resources I used were first and foremost, my trusty Prisma English-Dutch dictionary, followed by DeepL and Google Translate for certain specific words. The other resource was the site <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/inourtime/#Summary>which gave me more context to the particular stories.

The fastest translation to produce was, in my opinion, the text about the ministers being shot. Mainly because this was the shortest text, but also with the DeepL translation included, which needed very little editing.

Given that I did these three translations in an hour, I am not fully satisfied with the final quality. The sentences drag on maybe a bit too long, but that is also in the original. I like the minister translation the most. This is because here I felt that my own thought process lined up the most with the MT.

Using MT as part of the process feels very two-sided. On the one hand, there is a bar you can follow if needed. On the other, there is the danger that that bar can become a crutch and that you refuse to deviate too much from the MT.

‘Normal’ translating is different from post-editing, in that during regular translating, you have to completely use your own word order, without getting to check how a sentence structure feels like you can in post-editing.