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ENGL-2210

Essay 2

In writing, the use of emotion and syntax are critical to conveying the feelings to the readers. Multiple translations of the same text can completely flip the tone and meaning of the poem by use of syntax and diction from the one translating it. When writers complete this task, the work can speak for itself and them due to the difficulty and detail that is needed. The poems written by Rosalia De Castro are some of those works that, when translated, can display a very different attitudes and feelings. As shown in the translation of “The ailing Woman Felt Her Forces Ebb” by S. Griswold Morley and also in “Feeling her end would come with summer’s end” by Kate Flores. In both sets of text, the differences from the original are very clear and yet you see the main idea still floating overhead. I believe that S. Griswold Morley used her syntax in a more detailed and effective manner than Kate Flores did. That being said, both translations maintain the means to be effective in their own right. Flores just seemed as if some of her descriptive words were either too far or just short of the mark but Morley, honestly, hit it right on the head. A a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a In Kate Flores’ translation, she had many aspects of the writing to consider while also attempting to continue with the same idea and subject. She successfully mimicked the English language from the original Galician language. The difficulty of translating this complex language is almost improbable due to Galician not having many meanings in relation to what is in English but her effort to exceed that disadvantage is outstanding. In the first line of the text, we immediately see the type of narration Flores goes for. “Feeling her end would come with summer’s end,…” (Line 1) said Flores while giving readers insight on what the woman is thinking and her emotions. This first line gives an attitude of depression and melancholy as the woman seems to be waiting or anticipating her death. Flores ands insult to injury by using the vocabulary like “end,” “incurable,” and “sadness” (Line 1-3) to ensure that the readers understand the morbid tone of poem. There is some internal focalization seen inside the text on Line 3 as well with the woman’s emotions apparently “Mingled joy and sadness.” A a a a a a a a a a a a a a Through this far in the poem, the main theme of it should be clear to the reader because it is sprinkled through every line. Flores does a great job illustrating the words of De Castro to further give life to her own. The words joy and sadness put together would normally be an oxymoron, but instead it brings uncertainty to the idea that woman is in her right mind. With her emotions seemingly out-of-whack, it matches the tone of the poem as she is shown to be depresse3d and ready for death. On lines 4-5, Flores uses words like “rustling” to describe the leaves instead of using “falling” or “piling” on the grave. This type of word play can give life to a whole paragraph or even a page if followed by similar patterns. We as readers begin to think that the woman may be under some category of curse. This idea comes from the fact that “even death would not oblige her,…” (Line 6-7) This woman, no matter what, can’t find the easy way out. Flores establishes how miserable the life of this woman is and continues that attitude with her wordplay. With that being said, the overall composition of her literature isn’t as effective to the reader. A a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a S. Griswold Morley’s version of Rosalia De Castro’s poem has great detail and beautiful word play. In contrast to Kate Flores, Morley’s elegance of emotions and riddles of details leads me as a reader to a new place when I begin the poem. You can sense the presence of spiritual meanings when you read Morley’s words and that right there is the true difference of which translation is the most effective. Morley give the poem a new aspect to view it from. He also begins his translation with a bit of homodiegetic narration as we see the women he speaks of is “ailing” (Line 1). According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term “ailing” means affected by or suffering from illness or poor health. With this definition, it makes sense for the reader to begin to have sympathy for the woman. As soon as we are introduced to the character, we see she is under a terrible affliction. Morley also says that the woman feels her “forces ebb.” (Lines 1) Ebb means to go from a good setting to a worse setting. I believe Morley wanted the readers to realized that the woman is ailing and it isn’t looking good for her. On the same coin is the spiritual side of how the power of having empathy toward a person. The focalization is internal for the woman as she has feelings that she is yet to comprehend. In the words of Morley, “She thought, half-melancholy, half-content.” The reader may be confused the same as if he were reading Flores, but the previously stated “spiritual side” has connected to the reader. A a a a a a a a a The subject that both translations take into consideration is the seasons and time of the year. “With summer, and knew her time was imminent,” (Line 2) “In autumn I shall die,” (Line 3) and “In winter spared her life,…” (Line 9) are examples to each writer understanding the same concept from the original text. I believe the words of Morley are more meaningful than in Flores’ translation. His wording of her death gives a feeling to the reader that helps them fully visualize the grave for this woman. In the text of Morley’s translation, “And I shall feel the leaves, that will be dead Like me, drop on the grave in which I lie.” (Line 5-6) That sentence is one of the most visual lines in the entire poem. Morley, in contrast to Flores, knows the exact words that will send the readers directly into the scene as they read.

In conclusion, The translation that I believe truly reenacts the vision from De Castro’s original poem is S. Griswold Morley’s. Her “The ailing woman felt her forces ebb” gives the readers everything they need to deep dive into the text and examine the words in order to fully see the poem. This isn’t saying that the translation from Kate Flores is not good because that would be false. Both translation have a large amount of visional key words that can have the reader envisioning the setting. When it comes down to the purest and most detailed, Morley is the only correct answer.