TRANSLATION STUDIES IN FRANCE AND CANADA

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Background to Literary Translation in Canada

- Jacques Cartier
- 1534
- Iroquois
- BNA Act of 1867 - **The British North America Act**
- English-Canadian and Quebec literary production

- **1971 the Canada Council Translation Grant program**

- **1975 the Literary Translators' Association**

- ***Ellipse* (1969), *Meta* (1966), and *TTR* (1987)**

- **Philip Stratford's 1977 *Bibliography of Canadian Books in Translation: French to English and English to French***

Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet

- **Jean Darbelnet (1904-1990)**
- Paris
- the Sorbonne
- Wales, Edinburgh and Manchester
- 1938-39 at Harvard
- 1940 Canada McGill University
- Bowdoin College and Laval University

- **Jean-Paul Vinay (1910-1999)**
  Paris the Sorbonne
   MA in Phonetics and Philology 1937
   French army 1939-40 liaison officer with the British Expeditionary Forces
   1946 Canada the University of Montréal professor and head of the department of Linguistics and Translation
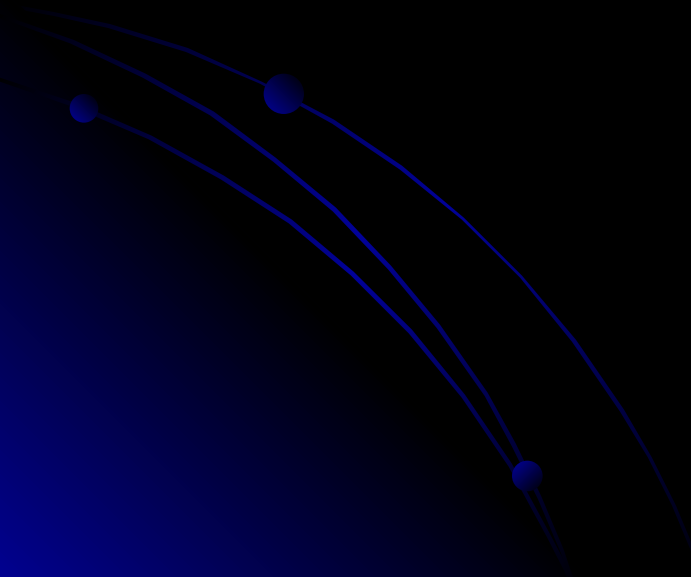   the bilingual Canadian Dictionary 1962
  a television *course Speaking French*
   1967 the University of Victoria in British Columbia

. Comparative Stylistics of French and English

- **Direct methods of translating**
1. **Borrowing**
2. **Calque**
3. **literal translation**

Procedure 1: Borrowing

- To overcome a lacuna, usually a metalinguistic one (e.g. a new technical process, unknown concept)

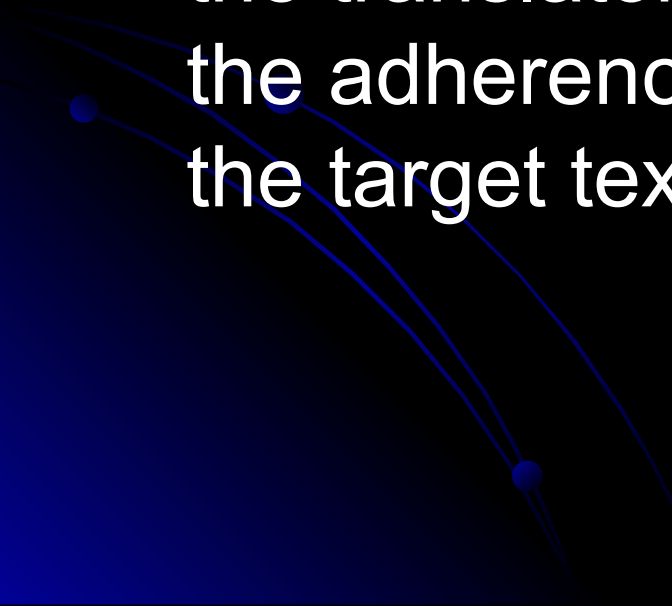- borrowing is the simplest of all translation method

Many borrowings enter a language through translation, just like **semantic borrowings** or **faux amis**, whose pitfalls translators must carefully avoid.

Procedure 2: Loan translation

- a special kind of borrowing whereby a language borrows an expression form of another, but then translates literally each of its elements.

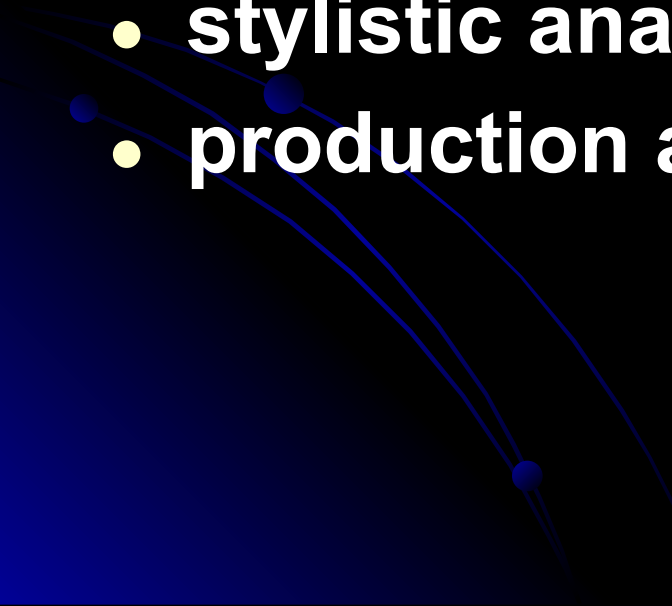- **lexical loan**
- **structural loan**

Procedure 3: Literal translation

- Literal, or word for word, translation is the direct transfer of a source text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate target language text in which the translator's task is limited to observing the adherence to the linguistic servitude of the target text.

Oblique methods of translating

- **transposition (change from one part of speech in the ST to another in the TT)**,
- **modulation (change in semantics and point of view)**
- **equivalence (different languages describing a situation by different means, e.g. idioms)**
- **adaptation (changing cultural reference).**

model of translation

- **identification of translation units**
- **analysis of these units in the SL**
- **reconstruction of metalinguistic context**
- **stylistic analysis**
- **production and revision of TT.**

Georges Mounin (1910-1993)

- pseudonym de Louis Leboucher
- French linguist , professor of linguistics
- Les Belles infidèles. Essai sur la traduction 1955
- Les Problèmes théoriques de la traduction, 1963
- La Machine à traduire, 1964.
- Linguistique et traduction, 1976.

The Interpretive Theory of Translation Danica Seleskovitch and Marianne Lederer

- Études traductologiques : en hommage à Danica Seleskovitch, textes réunis par Marianne Lederer, Lettres modernes, 1990.

- Fortunato Israël et Marianne Lederer (eds) La Théorie Interprétative de la Traduction (Vol. I: genèse et développement, Vol.II. convergences, mises en perspectives, Vol.III. de la formation ... à la pratique professionnelle), lettres modernes minard, 2005.

- Anne-Marie Widlund-Fantini, Danica Seleskovitch - Interprète et témoin du XXe siècle, éditions de l'Age d'Homme, 2007

Danica Seleskovitch (1921-2001)
teacher of conference interpreting
a researcher and theorist
She founded the interpretation wing of the École
Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs (ESIT) at the
University of Paris

- Interpretation/interpreting is generally defined as oral translation and perceived as a more or less mechanical activity consisting in a series of encoding and decoding operations.

- "It is not the oral translation of words" - interpreting/interpretation is a complex and demanding activity: "it uncovers a meaning and makes it explicit for others.

- Interpretation is communication, i.e. analysis of the original message and its conversion.
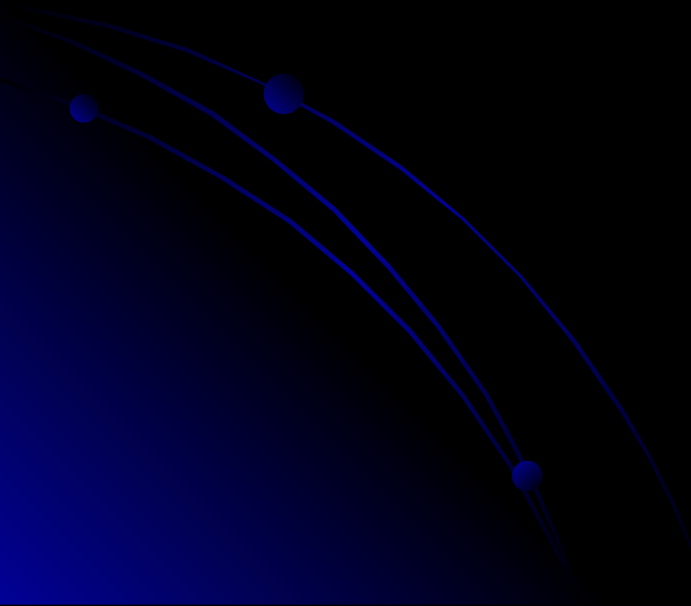
three stages of the process:

- 1. Auditory perception of a linguistic utterance which carries meaning. Apprehension of the language and comprehension of the message through a process of analysis and exegesis.
- 2. Immediate and deliberate discarding of the wording and retention of the mental representation of the message (concepts, ideas, etc.)
- 3. Production of a new utterance in the target language which must meet a dual requirement: it must express the original message in its entirety and it must be geared to the recipient."

- Meaning in interpretation is dependent, according to Seleskovitch's theory "not only on us but also on the person we are addressing and on the context in which we both find ourselves."

types of memory

- **substantive memory retains/stores what has previously been understood/processed**
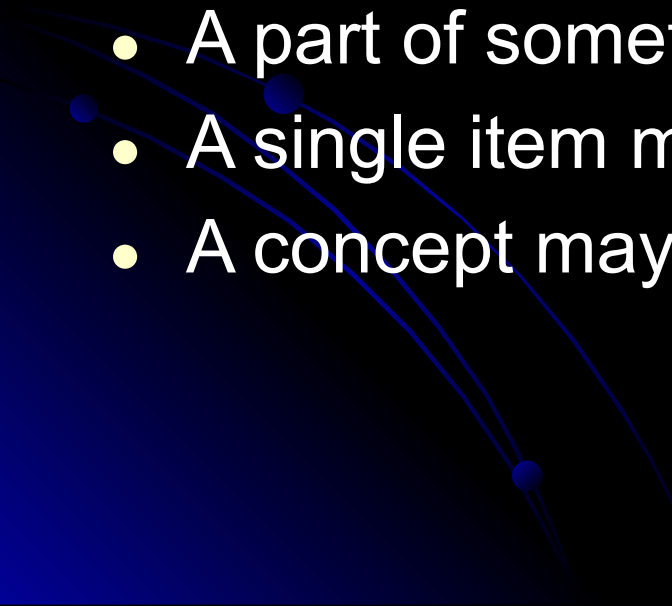- **verbatim** memory retains words

- Comprehension/processing of the meaning is difficult in either mode of interpreting, i.e. consecutive or simultaneous, owing to the oral nature of the message. In simultaneous, however, it seems impossible to achieve.

- Simultaneous interpreting makes it almost impossible for the interpreter to dissociate source language from target language. Being intensely exposed to the former and having to produce the latter almost instantly, the interpreter has no time to process meaning and therefore he is most liable to translate words instead of meaning.

operations of the interpreter

- a) hearing; b) understanding the language;
- c) conceptualizing (building a cognitive reminiscence by integrating sequences of connected speech into pre-existing knowledge);
- d) enunciating (what has been stored in the substantive memory);
- e) getting/being aware of the interpreting situation;
- f) checking audio-equipment;
- g) transferring;
- h) recalling of particular signifiers

- Comprehension is what occurs when new information ties in with related knowledge. If such knowledge is absent the new information is ignore
- **The Interpretive Theory** is built upon four pillars:
- 1) command of the native language,
- 2) command of the source language,
- 3) command of relevant world and background knowledge,
- 4) command of interpreting methodology.
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- Interpretive Theory posits that methodologically the process of translating requires an understanding of sense (language meaning + cognitive complements) and a formulation of the translation on the basis of the synecdoche principle

- **synecdoche**

- A part of something may stand for the whole.

- A single item may represent a whole group.

- A concept may represent a connected concept.

Dr. **Jean Delisle**
FRSC *Professor* of Translation and Interpretation University of Ottawa

eight classes of translations on the basis of four characteristics:

- a) According to the function of the source text - pragmatic translation and literary translation
- b) According to the degree of specialization in the source text - general translation and specialized translation
- c) According to the general purpose of translating - academic translation and professional translation
- d) According to the translation approach used in producing the target text - transcoding and translation (proper)

Judith Woodsworth

Translators Through History, editors Jean Delisle, Judith Woodsworth, John Benjamins

- Ph.D (born 1948) Paris
- BA in French and Philosophy from McGill University
- Ph.D. in French Literature from McGill.
- a Canadian academic and university administrator