Ideas for a Translation dissertation

The previous document, ‘Writing a Dissertation in Translation Studies’, will have helped you to explore the scope of the discipline, which is vast, and to highlight areas of interest. Below you will find a list of dissertation topics that students have worked on in previous years, and examples of some of the essay topics that students on the final-year Translation Theory and Practice module. These are shorter essays, but many could easily have been worked up into a longer piece of research.

Past topics include:

- a study of the way in which the subtitler of *Bienvenue Chez Les Ch’tis* has dealt with the humourous portrayal of the regional dialects
- discussion of whether Shakespeare’s history plays can truly be deemed to be 'translatable' into French
- an examination of the different ways in which translation operates within the institutions of the European Union, taking the particular example of the French, English, Polish and Spanish versions of the Treaty of Lisbon, juxtaposed to the text *Your Guide to the Lisbon Treaty*
- an analysis of the extent to which successful localization can be deemed to have taken place, looking at the particular example of the translation of the names of Pokémon characters in Red & Blue (traditional localization process) and X & Y (sim-ship localization process)

Translation Theory and Practice previous topics

1. An analysis of techniques used to translate cultural aspects of the US animation *The Simpsons* into French.
2. To what extent was the translator of *Intouchables* successful in maintaining both *Frenchness* and humour, from the perspective of Venuti’s invisibility theory?
3. An Analysis of the methods used in translating French-culture specific references into English.
4. An analysis of the translation of proper names in Disney films.
6. An analysis of the translation and localisation of the official English Tourist Board website into French.

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7. The Translation of Technological Terms and Cultural Idioms in an Online News Article (about *le bizutage*).


9. A Theoretical Analysis of Anthea Bell and Dereck Hockridge’s 2012 Comic Translation *Asterix in Britain* with particular attention given to the translation of humour.


1. Differences in the way that the financial crisis is portrayed in French, Italian and English (based upon an article drawn from the European Parliament website).


5. Comparison of 3 different translations of the same poem by Rimbaud (issues of compromise).

6. The translation of jokes and puns across languages (Asterix books).

7. The translation of Haiku (a student also studying Japanese).

8. To what extent can subtitling and dubbing be viewed as adequate methods of audiovisual translation?

9. An examination of the French subtitling of the film *Trainspotting* (a case study looking at discourse analysis and cross cultural communication).

10. The intralingual translation of three songs in Disney’s *Enchanted/Il était une fois* between lyrics and subtitles and the interlingual translation between the English and French lyrics.


13. L’Oréal and the translation of advertising material in its print and video advertisements.

14. Milan Kundera, the self-translator: “Perfect translation is an impossible dream”.

15. Steig Larsson’s *Millenium* trilogy: publishing perspectives.

16. The subtitling of *Sex and the City* (with particular reference to the treatment of humour).

17. Omissions and changes within the translation of Harry Potter’s *À l’École des Sorciers*.

18. The subtitling of Welcome to the Sticks/ *Bienvenue chez les Cht’is*.


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20. 2 translations of a Keats poem (*To Autumn*).
21. The translation of litotes in *La Princesse de Clèves*.
22. The subtitling of *How I Met Your Mother* (Benisms) : the Slapsgiving episode.
23. Two translations of Zola's *Pot-Bouille*, focussing upon bowdlerisation.
24. The (unsuccessful) translation of *La Haine* subtitles.