#### Fiat Lingua

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# The Creation of Meaning

**By: Olivia Nelson** 

For my project I am discovering where does the creation of meaning originate? I created a translation of the school's mission to useas a place to explore. How does meaning form and when interpreting between two languages what is a translator's job? Is it better for them to accurately convey exact definitions of words said, or does an accurate translation, require somet is translation an act of conveying meaning and guiding it with rules of a dictionary and syntax is there another element of translation that goes beyond knowing the definition of words.

What is the purpose of a dictionary?

#### **Interpretation**

phrase that was used by Soviet First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev while addressing Western ambassadors at a reception at the Polish embassy in Moscow on November 18, 1956.[1][2][3] The phrase was originally translated into English by Khrushchev's personal interpreter Viktor Sukhodrev.[



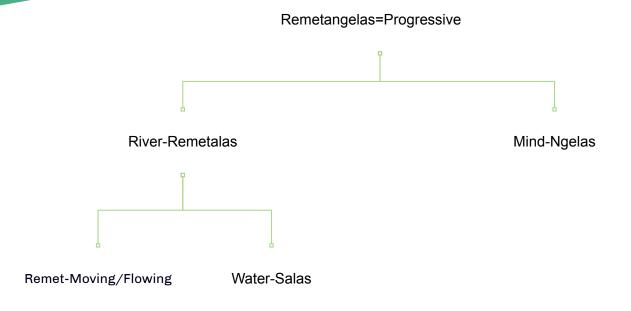
Yet when set in context, Khrushchev's words were closer to meaning "Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. We will dig you in". He was stating that Communism would outlast capitalism, which would destroy itself from within, referring to a passage in Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto that argued "What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers." While not the most calming phrase he could have uttered, it was not the sabre-rattling threat that inflamed anti-Communists and raised the spectre of a nuclear attack in the minds of Americans. Khrushchev himself clarified his statement — although not for several years. "I once said 'We will bury you', and I got into trouble with it," he said during a 1963 speech in Yugoslavia. "Of course we will not bury you with a shovel. Your own working class will bury you."

http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20150202-the-greatest-mistranslations-ever A lot of mistakes in translation have happened this way. Translating something simply by using the dictionary isn't enough.

# "Мы вас похороним!"

## **Etymology**

This is something I kept in mind as I began translating the mission. And when the language sample you are using is as complex as the mission, you have to constantly think about literal translations, or the evolution the language has had separating itself from its dictionary defenition, and the meanings that can stem from them. Take the word progresive. It has a meaning in modern day has become synonymous with american politics, and it is challanging to separate this connotation from the word. In order to translate this I looked for the pure defenition, and then added the biases of my culture. Talk about Progressive.



### **Complex Words**

Unfortunately this was only one of 22 words I deemed complex enough to require etymology.

Interdisciplinary

Nine

Through

Twelve

Independent

Believes

Mission

Graduate

Prepared

Practice

Empathy

Ethicality

Gratitude

Committed

Measurably

Better

College

Place

Graduate

Mission

Best

All

So after creating the etymology for all of these words the mission...next slide

## The Mission

The Stone independent School is a progressive, interdisciplinary 9-12 independent school which believes that all students learn best by doing. It is our mission to graduate students who are prepared for college who practice Empathy, Ethicality, and Gratitude, and who are committed to making the world a measurably better place.

Became lanlodasai len(e)r tranalt. Now, this wasn't just a matter of translating each word, because I believe that simply translating words is not enough to create an accurate translation, but there were many things that I had to do before I was able to translate the mission

# Lantraia lenr tranalt

Deget remetangélas, Keflatelakamxíd, gelt ark saisiper lo ALlok da, Kristia Latdaxmai. Ispétos alar látialesh deget kronal tenkálatel. Lantraia lenr tranalt aprogála Lloser Deget ot lenrala risenk Deget esloria, satéLlik, dumoris Lloser, Deget Lonie Mostófkarála ixof Deget tatímlongos Kanalíisk daxmai.

#### **Real World influences**



First, I created my sound system, there can never be a completely original sound system so I decided to take ques from Arabic, French, and Welsh.

# **Real World Influences**

In the end, I created a system that had .......

#### Grammar

- Default Word Order: SVO
- Adjective-noun
- Preposition-noun
- (GENIN) Possessor-Possessed
- Auxiliary-Verb

Now incidentally, having the format of a simple sentence isn't going to cut it with this paragraph

#### **Complex Sentences**

Have them create sentences of their own?

#### **Adjectives and Adverbs**

Dative indicator/adjectives/subject

\*Rule: Adverbs before Adjectives\*

[LIT.] DATIN Tall Smart She

[LIT.] DATIN ((prep.) with envy) green he

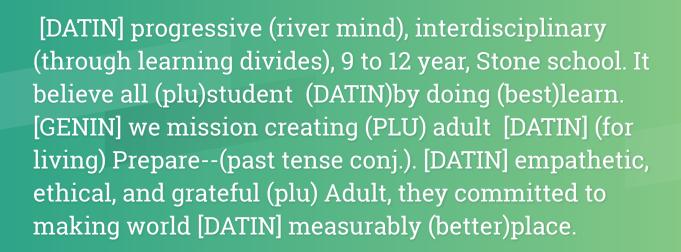
#### **Dative Indicator**

Subject/dative indicator ((preposition))

Indirect object/Verb/Direct object

She threw the ball at him

[LIT.] She DATIN (at) him threw ball



So in the end, the translation ended up looking like this in english

# Lantraia lenr tranalt

Deget remetangélas, Keflatelakamxíd, gelt ark saisiper lo ALlok da, Kristia Latdaxmai. Ispétos alar látialesh deget kronal tenkálatel. Lantraia lenr tranalt aprogála Lloser Deget ot lenrala risenk Deget esloria, satéLlik, dumoris Lloser, Deget Lonie Mostófkarála ixof Deget tatímlongos Kanalíisk daxmai.

[DATIN] progressive (river mind), interdisciplinary (through learning divides), 9 to 12 year, Stone school. It believe all (plu)student (DATIN)by doing (best)learn. [GENIN] we mission creating (PLU) adult [DATIN] (for living) Prepare--(past tense conj.). [DATIN] empathetic, ethical, and grateful (plu) Adult, they committed to making world [DATIN] measurably (better)place.

Now that we have some background, Let's go back an see why I translated things the way I did

Through translating this, I began to realize that I began to cut words that didn't make sense in my language or adapt what it says in the mission because there wasn't a concept for this such as college or "independent school". And by translating the mission, I realized that translating each word and replicating the exact definition of the meaning of the word wasn't what I was doing. I was instead trying to convey the same essence of meaning through language as that in English.

And that is what I really discovered was the creation of language, was the

# What is Meaning?

--A set of parameters that are set by the users of language repeatedly in consistent context?--

