

Harner, Dan

Span 407

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Final Reflection

This semester was the culmination of all the course work I've done at Old Dominion University. I've developed my abilities in Spanish to a level I am quite proud of and look forward to continuing my Spanish learning journey as I join the work force. This final semester I took part in an advanced grammar course which was delivered through the concept of translation. While from the outside translation can seem to be a straightforward and simple task, the process of crafting an accurate and well-reasoned document is quite time and energy intensive. This class has shown me the necessity of taking time to research, dive into and understand a source text's roots and its author's intentions.

Translation also is far more nuanced and fluid than simply transcribing word by word with a dictionary. Different forms of communication have different moods and feelings they convey. For example, a poem and an academic article will have dramatically different tone, word choice, audience and purpose. I was floored by the amount of time must be spent before beginning a translation, and how much revision plays a role in producing a final product. The continuum of choices a translator must make with respect to how closely a final text must mirror a source text (from a literal, word-for-word translation to a free, open translation which focuses more on the sentiments and ideas expressed, rather than the grammatical structures and verbiage employed) is vast. How one chooses to approach that process is as important as the process itself. For my work in class, I would estimate that I have spent at least 50% of the total time I produced

work in a research phase preparing to translate the documents. A deep understanding of the author is critical for producing a translation that honors the original work.

This class has been challenging and enlightening. I very much enjoy the translation process and would be quite happy to undertake this experience in a work setting in the future. I look forward to incorporating this skill into my future career.