

VY MUDIMBE: A READER

IATL TRANSLATION SEMINARS – MAY 2011

STUDENT EVALUATION FORM

Please answer the following questions at the end of your final seminar:

1. Did you have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the seminars?

Yes - They were made clear even before the seminar! (Thank you again!)

2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?

Very interesting indeed!
Discussions on the very specificity of some expressions in French/English were particularly useful - (eg. legacy/heritage)

3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?

Since ~~As~~ I often need to translate academic resources (from French to English and English to French), this really helped me understand my own weaknesses and provided me with some ways of addressing them - ^{identify}

4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?

Dealing with postcolonial issues, this seminar was really relevant to my research area =
Although not directly connected to my own focus, it nonetheless expand my knowledge of contemporary thinking -

5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?

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To work on the content & the language of some excerpts of a literary work.

2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?

I did. The way how we did the translation in an analytical point of view and working on both languages were interesting & useful.

3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?

To work on a kind of analytical translation was totally new therefore very interesting. We briefly notice how translation can be (in this academic way).

4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?

- The subtleties of language -
- To discuss & think about some aspects of translation. (above all between francophones & anglophones)

5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?

- spend time on the translation in itself (different ways to do the translation such or such excerpts)

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yes on the whole - working together to think through passages to be included in the 'reader'.

2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?

yes! - i found it very interesting to discuss translation difficulties such as the use of tenses / restructuring of syntax etc. in a relaxed environment with colleagues.

3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?

as above really - thinking through the process and methodology of translation will help with teaching this skill and my own confidence in this area.

4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?

It has made me consider the benefits of either maintaining / altering the source text where necessary and to step back and think about the overall meaning and message of the piece.

5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?

i would have liked them to be a little longer, as this has been a great opportunity.

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1. Did you have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the seminars?
2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?
Yes, it was very interesting, especially the interaction between people. The fact that we were all from different countries, with different intellectual backgrounds... The passages we have translated were all very different as well but with a logical link.
3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?
It's always good to compare different languages, histories... The historical background given before the translation was very interesting and useful as well.
4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?
It was very useful to learn how to analyse the words chosen by the author and try to find an equivalent in English. You learn to pay attention to everything in a text.
5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?

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Please answer the following questions at the end of your final seminar:

1. Did you have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the seminars? Yes, it was made very clear as to where the project had come from and where it is going, and also the role that we play in helping on the publication

2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?

Very interesting particularly translation techniques, discussing alternatives, debating possible translations...

3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?

I am doing my final year translation exam in a couple of weeks and it was great to get involved in a project like this (real translation!) and revise at the same time.

4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?

It has opened my eyes to other academic areas that I may like to explore but I haven't researched during this project, ~~more~~ just translated.

5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?

Perhaps a hand out to summarise information about the publication would be good, as, although extremely interesting, it was hard to take in the lecture all in one go.

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1. Did you have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the seminars?

Yes

2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?

I found the background information provided by the three seminar leaders extremely interesting and insightful.

3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?

translation. I have been able to see the strategies used in translation

In addition, they have informed my other module on French literature.

4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?

They have provided fresh perspectives on the subject which I would not have had through self-study.
I enjoyed the interactive aspect of the seminars.

5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?

I feel that they were successful and have no suggestions for improvement.

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Please answer the following questions at the end of your final seminar:

1. Did you have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the seminars?

Yes absolutely. The aims were made clear through pre-seminar publicity material and through emails.

2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?

I found the translation process in itself to be especially interesting, but I do think that some of the discussion was extended beyond necessity. That said, the seminars were thoroughly engaging and the facilitators did well to encourage participation.

3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?

As a doctoral student, I believe that the seminars have helped to broaden my knowledge of post-colonial studies and indeed have exposed me to interdisciplinary study. I feel that I can also apply some of the translation methods used in my teaching of translation seminars within the Department of French Studies.

4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?

The seminars have encouraged me to look beyond the narrow focus of my thesis and to examine how literature reflects some of the broader theories of my research.

5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?

As I suggested above, in my view the facilitators might like, on future occasions, to encourage the more talkative participants to allow others to participate more frequently. However, all participants were encouraged to contribute by the facilitators themselves. I would also suggest that the positioning of the room be altered slightly—perhaps a round table format might have been appropriate? Otherwise, it was truly intellectually stimulating to attend the event.

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Please answer the following questions at the end of your final seminar:

1. Did you have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the seminars?
Before arriving I was not really sure what to expect, but the introduction, or contextualisation, was very useful
2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?
I enjoyed working as part of a multilingual group on an academic translation. It was interesting to see how various individuals approached the text and I enjoyed teasing out a definitive version from various suggestions
3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?
It is useful to come into contact with a different type of translation, and to work on it outside of the restraints of a usual translation class. The seminars have also taught me to think more carefully about my use of English
4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?
I had to use various medium to translate this text, so the internet, monolingual and bilingual dictionaries all came in useful. I also had very little background knowledge on the text, and had to research a little around the topic to get some background information, although much more poignant details were given in the seminars themselves
5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?
I would prefer to know in advance which passages will be covered in depth, but perhaps a spontaneous or instinctive approach is more helpful in creating a natural sounding English translation

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1. Did you have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the seminars?

Yes. It was useful to be given the background information which helped make the aims even clearer.

2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?

Yes I found them very interesting. Not only was the topic something I do not know much about and thus found very useful to discover, it was also interesting to see translation in the real world, not just as an exercise to prepare for an exam.

3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?

I have a clearer understanding of the importance in finding the exact word in order to convey the true meaning of a text.

4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?

I am reluctant to say I did no research apart from looking up words in the dictionary! If I had had more time I would have used the Petit Robert and also looked in more detail at the background information.

5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?

I felt a bit intimidated at first but that is just because I worry about getting things wrong – I think the group dynamics were well handled!

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1. Did you have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the seminars?

Yes, they were pointed out clearly at the beginning of the sessions.

2. Did you find the seminars interesting? What aspects were particularly interesting?

The seminars were very interesting. We benefited from a clear introduction to the subject treated in the source texts, which helped us having a better understanding of them. The fact of having cooperative translation was stimulating, for different choices were discussed and selected after having been analysed from different perspectives.

3. In what ways do you think that the seminars have helped you in your degree?

As a Translation MA student, I thought that the seminars gave me the possibility to meet professional translators and have first-hand experience of professional translation practice.

4. How have the seminars improved your research skills?

The importance of locating the source text in a clear historical and ideological context was stressed and I learned the potential benefits deriving from the use of etymological dictionary.

5. What aspects of the seminars could be improved upon?

The seminars were very well organised. Probably we could have used electronic whiteboard to project the source text, the target text and the agreed translation. This would allow everyone to follow better.