

TRANSLATION DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What comes to mind when you hear the word 'translation'?
- 2) Are there words in your language that you think are almost impossible to translate?
- 3) What problems have you had with translating English idioms?
- 4) Have you ever had great fun using an online translation service?
- 5) Would you like to work as a translator?
- 6) Do you think someone will invent an instant speech translation machine one day so we can always understand what people are saying in other languages?
- 7) Have you made any funny mistakes because of translation?
- 8) Do you think a country's slang is difficult to translate?
- 9) Jonathan Miller said: "What makes literature interesting is that it does not survive its translation." Do you agree?
- 10) Umberto Eco said: "Translation is the art of failure." Do you agree?

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STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1) How important is translation in learning a language?
- 2) Are you always satisfied with how easily words can be translated?
- 3) Do you use translation tools to learn English?
- 4) If two speakers of different languages fell in love, could they ever make each other understand exactly how they feel – is love lost in translation?
- 5) Why is it that translated jokes are rarely funny?
- 6) Do you need an in-depth knowledge of the other culture to be able to do a good translation?
- 7) How well do you think a term like "democracy" is translated and understood in countries that have no democracy?
- 8) Are movies in English always translated well into your language?
- 9) The poet Robert Frost said: "Poetry is what gets lost in translation." Do you agree?
- 10) George Borrow said: "Translation is at best an echo." Do you agree?

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