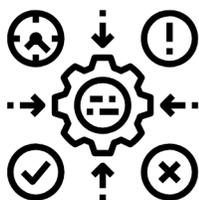


Ways to Get to Know a Translation

Strategies for understanding the conscious and subconscious impacts of a translator on a translation.



Understand the context

Knowing a little about the translator is valuable context for framing the translator's choices. The time period, education, social and cultural context, and political context of the translator are all liable to be reflected in their work.



Consider the text type

Assessing the text type (informative, appellative, expressive) helps ground the translator's main goals in the translation.



Look for translation artifacts

Idioms, foreign words, unusual syntax in the text are hints to the priorities of the translator and the form of the original text.



Note translator interventions

Footnotes, glosses (defining a foreign word), extended explanations, italics or quotations, are all ways that translators make themselves visible in the text.



Take stock of the overall effect

The translator's choices taken as a whole will convey their point of view. The effect might be domesticating or foreignizing, interventionist or subtle, focused on form or focused on content.