

Número de registo da escola:

1 7 2 6

País:

P T

Número do aluno na base de dados:

1 7 2 1

Combinação linguística:

P T &gt; E N

Iniciais do aluno:

S H

Ano de nascimento do aluno:

1 9 9 9

Only through translation do we understand one another

Every time we run into someone we know in a far-off land, we usually say "It's such a small world!" Before it was small, the world was infinite since it was uncharted. Thanks to their Discoveries, the Portuguese gifted Earth with new worlds. By spreading the word, from language to language, translators gifted authors with new readers. Both shortened the distance between people and cultures. Without translation, each and every one of us, the people of this world, would still be talking to ourselves, preaching in the desert. It was natural human curiosity that gave birth to the art of translation.

There are around 7000 different languages and dozens of alphabets, with the exception of the one I invented with a friend of mine when we were both about 13 years old. ~~which was intended~~ with the intention of keeping our correspondence (illustrated post cards we used to send each other during the holidays) a secret. You'd need a lot of time to decipher our secrets, just like it took thousands of years to translate the hieroglyphs.

In the European Union, many thousands of pages are needed per year in order to translate the works of the Europeans. We're made up of 28 countries, 24 official and working languages, and the same amount of

Número de registo da escola:

1 7 2 6

País:

P T

Número do aluno na base de dados:

1 7 2 1

Combinação linguística:

P T &gt; E N

Iniciais do aluno:

S H

Ano de nascimento do aluno:

1 9 9 9

... cultures. We have differences of opinion, different ways of viewing the world, solutions that aren't always unanimous for the ~~problem~~ <sup>problem</sup> at hand. But ~~we~~ by embracing a common project we have no other choice but to understand each other by... talking. Because ~~that~~ "only through speech do we understand one another," claims an old portuguese saying. And we, the europeans, are well aware that, to speak, we must first translate. And we understand each other because "The language of Europe is translation," as was written by Umberto Eco. Only through translation do we understand one another. Therefore, translation is a discovery halfway towards unknown ~~destinations~~ destinations. An author writes on a blank page, while a translator has a full one, of which they'll have to make sense of in another language, adapting words which they might otherwise disagree with. The translator may feel lost, but is obligated to reach the goal defined by the author. They know, in the cross-roads between ~~different~~ possible solutions, not to choose that one word, but another which carries a better sense of the literary ambiguity or the technical precision present in the original language.

~~The~~ In the end of the "Dark Canticle", the poet José Régio writes "I don't know which path I'll take / I don't know where

Número de registo da escola: 1 7 2 6

País: P T

Número do aluno na base de dados: 1 7 2 1

Combinação linguística: P T > E N

Iniciais do aluno: S H

Ano de nascimento do aluno: 1 9 9 9

I'll end up / I know as I won't take that way!" Like a poet,  
a translator has doubts and certainties. However, there's one thing both  
translator and Europeans know: without translation, the world  
wouldn't be so small.