

Translation for Education FAQ Draft Version

The original is unfaithful to the translation.
- *Jorge Luis Borges, Argentinian writer, 1899-1986*

□

[Who and what are we?](#)

[Who is our audience?](#)

[WHAT and HOW do we translate?](#)

[Samples of our translations](#)

[How to add the link](#)

[Other questions](#)

□

Who and what are we?

Q: Could you please give me the name of your organization? I'm not sure I fully understand the purpose of these translations.

A: Our global volunteer project is called "Translation for Education", located in all-around-the-world, with no headquarters. Its purpose is translating articles dealing with interesting science subjects such as biology, chemistry, geology, medicine, and information technologies in order to assist students and university staff who are not very good at foreign languages and help them become familiarized with relevant scientific news from abroad. Translation from English to small aborigine European (Indo-European) languages, not the [big ones](#).

Q: Why do you actually do it?

A: There are thousands of interesting web pages, but not everyone in our country knows foreign languages, even among youth. Almost 50 percent of the EU population reckon they can speak at least one foreign language very well, with that figure rising to nearly 80 percent for students. We do it for the rest 20. So we decided to help spread the intellectual scientific heritage and make it more accessible to the wide and specialized reader without gaining any profit from our activity. Like Google Books, only with selected sources for translation.

Q: Does your project focus on general or specific information?

A: It can be both, depending on what we come across. We just want the sort of information that could inspire our readers, be more than helpful to them, and compensate some informational void in that given field of science in our country. We call it hunger for knowledge, not information.

Q: Are you a non-profit organization or not?

A: Yes, our project is non-commercial, it does not pursue any financial aim. Besides, it is totally voluntary and based on free will. You can join us if you want. Hurry up, we're

almost full!

Q: Who are you, actually? I mean the person who writes to me.

A: The person who actually writes to you is a student, a young researcher and a member of this voluntary translation project. I'm a nobody and a creator, two in one.

Who is our audience?

Q: Who are you doing this for? Who is your audience?

A: Our primary audience are students of various universities and departments who want to expand their knowledge in different fields of science and use it in their research. The second large range of audience are university professors whose main target is to find reliable resources for research and class preparation.

Q: How do you publish it? Is it web-based, a newsletter, or a printed magazine?

A: Translated materials are published on the web only, on our thematic blog. No print copies or other reproductions are intended. We are as poor as a church mouse can be.

Q: Is there a site I can see? Or is it a website database?

A: Sure there are examples to see! We're not a database, more like a collection with content curation. Take a look at some of our recent translations, for example:

<http://webhostinggeeks.com/science/notat-homes-ro>

<http://webhostinggeeks.com/science/suffolk-be>

Q: Will you be charging for access to the information or will it be freely available?

A: Nope, no charge whatsoever. We're absolutely free, free as a bird. Our goal is to disseminate knowledge of science among people who do not possess foreign languages. So all translations are posted on a blog, where they are freely available for all kind of Internet visitors. No charges for posting, access or use of the translated materials. Full credits given back.

WHAT and HOW do we translate?

Q: Who selects what is to be translated?

A: Basically us, volunteer translators, with our curators located on 3 continents. From time to time professors and students write to us and ask us to translate this or that source they found useful. Sometimes these sources are really different. It could be some conference program, an FAQ or a resume of some researcher whose page they were especially interested in.

Q: What exactly do you want to translate?

A: If we wrote to you mentioning some page (the exact URL), article or any other kind of publication, then we want namely THAT source. We will deal only with the text content of the page or if you think differently - we might change our proposal. Since any graphical

resources, such as images, photos, videos, audio and so on could be subject to copyright, they will be included in the translation only in case of author's request. We WON'T use any text, pictures or graphics without explicit written permission.

Q: You have to ask permission from me, first. I am the author after all. What if I don't grant you permission?

A: We never translate without asking permission from the author, never ever, we promise. If you, as the author, object to our translating your article, or page, then we won't do it. So we strike it out from our list, with our big black pencil. But we'd certainly try to find out what made you refuse our request.

Q: How could this page of mine be of scientific value?

A: Sometimes having and properly understanding even a few lines, a short descriptive overview, or a resume of a famous person, as well as a reference list, is well enough to direct someone just the right way and serve as a start up for further relevant research. Translation is at best an echo, but sometimes it's all we've got.

Q: Why you are particularly interested in this given page? It's too specific for research in your country (Uruguay, Uganda) and wouldn't be useful (for non-Canadians), for sure.

A: It often happens that young researchers have to make complicated contrastive studies, that's why they need such detailed narrow-scoped research such as yours. Besides, very often the most unusual, less likely to be useful resources open up fresh perspectives and break interdisciplinary borders. Are you fond of the Berliner Mauer?

Q: Are you interested in translating the press release (all of them?), the whole magazine issue, or some specific articles from the magazine issue?

A: For the very beginning we'd like the permission to translate merely the article that was mentioned in our first request to you. If you are interesting to suggest more pages of yours for translation, we will be glad to discuss this issue additionally with our volunteers.

Q: Are you going to use the images provided on our website along with the text for your project?

A: As we mentioned before, since any graphic resource, such as images, photos, videos, audio and so on could be a subject of copyright, we won't use them, if we get no permission for them in advance.

Q: Do you want to translate the software or the article about it? Will you use this software or distribute it?

A: We do not seek permission for translating copyright objects, such as software, even if it's opensource. We are interested in translating only text materials - articles, blog musings, software reviews, comments on astronomy and so on. No piece of software will be uploaded in addition to our translation. So, it won't be used, distributed or somehow promoted among the readers of our blog.

Q: Can I make a request to have some article of mine translated?

A: Sure you can. Just tell us about that and send the link to the resource you want translated. We will examine it and put it on our to-do list, if it fits one of our directions or meets our audience's needs. The list is huge but it has an end. At least that's what we believe it has. Or had not so long ago...

Q: Would it be possible to translate the latest version of my article or webpage? I plan on making a minor change and releasing a new version.

A: If the already translated article changes or is updated, we are absolutely ready to update our translation too, it's not that much of a problem. Just let us know when it is updated and will fix it a 2-week timeframe.

Q: You must be using Google Translate. Good trick, really.

A: No, we're not. We don't use CAT tools because we believe that complex scientific works should be carefully examined and translated manually. Moreover, all the translations are looked through in the end by the our university professors who are sometimes involved in our project. Not always, because they are pretty busy, but more often lately, actually.

Q: Could you just summarize the information on our page?

A: Well, we could, but usually the researchers need more than a summary. And often the resource has to be a credible, reliable reference resource. That's why we're more inclined to do complete articles. So rather no.

Q: Could you make an effort and translate at least this tiny article? It's an emergency for tomorrow.

A: We could, but we have to discuss additional conditions for that situation. After all, we have quite a long todo list, but in this case we could go freemium. We could discuss that via email. See next question too.

Q: Could you please clarify your intentions of becoming a "freemium-model" project?

A: The freemium-model has the following connotation: we make free of charge translations as well as free of charge spreading of this translations among the readers of our blog-platform and any other Internet visitors. But in emergency cases, if you want your article translated in the course of the next few days, we might agree on a little charge. Have we mentioned a charge? It would rather be a PayPal donation.

Q: Would the article be distributed in a free medium? Would it be distributed in a manner that is used to solicit business, and ultimately profit from it?

A: Yes it will, surely. The translated article will be published on our free blog, depending on the topic. It is not intended to be used in any profit gaining activity, or in any business. If we make money out of it, than we are not aware of it.

Q: I am not the only person involved in all this. You should also include Dr. XXX, he is the keeper of the website. He might also want a clearer explanation of why and how you plan to use this page.

A: No problem, sure. Please redirect us to Dr. XXX, or kindly ask him/her to take a look at this FAQ first. It's huge, but we tried to put in a nutshell. We spent a month to compile it.

Q: Do you have links that I can view to see how other materials have been used?

A: Sure thing. Here are a some of our translations, for example:

<http://webhostinggeeks.com/science/wiepre-college-ua>

<http://webhostinggeeks.com/science/magyar-impulzus-rm>

Q: Where exactly do you want to put this article on your website?

A: We have our thematic blogs with hosting kindly offered to us by our free hosting providers.

Q: We are going to be using [website dot com] as the new URL. Please note that we are in the process of transitioning to a new website, and we are going to be using domain.com as the new URL. Is it possible you to come back when we actually complete the transition?

A: No problem, absolutely. Changes of link go without saying. Could you please inform us when you're done with the transfer? We'll be waiting for you. Or we'll get back in half a year by ourselves.

Samples of our translations

Q: Can you please provide me a link to an example of translation of some other work and the way how the original work was credited?

A: Of course. You are welcome to check our previous translations located on one of our blogs. Here are just some of them:

<http://www.fatcow.com/edu/history-be/>

<http://www.fatcow.com/edu/ntnu-solarcells-bl/>

<http://www.fatcow.com/edu/subtree-merge-be/>

Every translation is provided with a link back to the original source at the top of the page. All authors get full credit, the credit they deserve. So, in order to avoid confusions, if you gave us permission to translate your text, please provide full info about you, so that we can credit you correctly.

How to add the link

Q: Why do you want me to put a link to your translation on my page? What's the point and use for it?

A: We want you to link to us because it would add to your and your article's popularity among readers around the world. Your readers would be quite amazed to see that your works are highly valued in other countries too. Besides, it will always be easy to trace back to a translation, if you have it right next to the original article.

Q: The problem is that I have no idea how to do add the link. Could you explain the steps, please? Then I will do it.

A: Please contact your webmaster first. You might ask him/her to help you with that. Or follow our instructions in order to add a link. To add a link you have to put HTML code somewhere on your page. Here's the step by step guide how to do it:

- Choose the place on the page where you want to have the link.
- If you plan to put the link in the text then you have to find the desired place and insert the following code - `translated into Slovenian`

- Instead of the text “link_address”, insert the actual page address (URL) that we want to link to.
- When you’re done, you will see the text “*translated into Slovenian*” as an actual link that will take you to the link that you indicated in “link_address”.

Here’s a sample of page text with code:

...The site is particularly useful to those who might have a professional interest in copyright standards, such as librarians and legal scholars. Note: this page was translated into Slovenian by Victor Zdrawlica.

When done, it will look like this on your site:

...The site is particularly useful to those who might have a professional interest in copyright standards, such as librarians and legal scholars. Note: this page was [translated into Slovenian](http://lawyerscheck.com/glossator~/intellectual-property-sl) by Victor Zdrawlica.

...

Take a look at the final result here:

http://horizon.unc.edu/projects/resources/intellectual_property.html

Q: Where do I have to put the link? Is it important?

A: In order to put the link to my translation on your website you will need to embed the html-code into the code of your website. The link should be on the same page with the source text. It doesn’t really matter where - below, above, in the body of the main text or even in the side bar. Just make sure it’s on the same page with the your original article. In case there’s some trouble with that, perhaps you could arrange for me to get in touch with the web-master of your website so that I can explain what exactly should be done.

Q: You could always just leave a comment on the blog post with a link back to your translation.

A: It is troublesome to get to the end of comments, or, some readers might not know about them at all, or they may not be able to easily find the necessary comment. Besides, it would be much easier for readers to find the translation if the link to it were posted near the original text.

Other questions

Q: How come that you know about our website for so long?

A: I have been involved with this sort of voluntary activity for a long time, most of which I have been tracing interesting web pages, publications, and all sort of scientific news in order to spread them among the readers of our blog.

Q: Do you read our publication on a regular basis?

A: Yes we do. We’re interested in any sort of scientific news and publications, so we regularly and carefully review relevant sources for subjects, such as your materials.

Q: Can you send me by snail mail a copy of your translation in a hardcover? I collect every publication of my article?

A: Most certainly no, because we're a volunteer project, so we don't actually have the funds to publish everything we translate. The only thing we can afford is publishing translations online.