

Topics in linguistic theory and Anthropological Linguistics

Theories and paths of translation.

The course is addressed to anthropology and linguist students, and not solely to those interested in carrying out linguistic translation, real or possible, drawing upon the main Western theories and debates on translation. Translating is a action and a practice running cross all anthropological and linguistic work, although different notions of “translation” and “language” stand at the origin of this activity, conscious or unconsciously. Hence, the first part of the course dialogues with theories of translation, from Eugene Nida to Walter Benjamin and Harold Campos. Andrea Lombardi (UFRJ) and Suzana (UFF), founder of the ESSTRADA research group, will share their knowledge with us. The second part of the course focuses upon translation experiences and exercises of indigenous languages to Portuguese (and vice-versa). Here we deal with translation in its classic or strict meaning, that is, as inter-linguistic translation, from one language to the other. These limits, however, will be widened to include inter-semiotic translations and transliterations, such as the analysis of genuine and radical intercultural experiences and issues of indetermination and non-translatability: limits, possibilities or impossibilities of translation. The writing or ortographicalization of languages with oral traditions will be considered as an inter-semiotic translation practice. We will face up challenges: how do we translate languages which categories (lexical and functional) and which syntax seem to be drastically differ? How do we translate verbal-musical and oral poetic arts? Or, what is missionary translation? Some classes will be lead by students speaking indigenous Amerindian languages. The seminars held during the previous course (first semester 2011) can be viewed in: <http://www.ppgasmn-ufrj.com/extensatildeo.html>