

PODCAST SCRIPT

TRANSLATIONS AND ORIGINALS



S: SOoOOooooo, hello everyone, we're here with Astou, Emily, Lucia, and me, Sofia. Today we wanted to discuss translations, more importantly, translated media, and how it compares to its original form. Since we go to a Linguistic school, we often see how a phrase can change drastically because of an inaccurate translation, and the impact this could have later on in a story.

M: Yes, sometimes it's just impossible to translate an expression, so we have to improvise. Other times, we make mistakes, and forget to check for them. But you know what is not difficult to translate???? NAMES.

For example, in winx, WHY DID AISHA BECOME LAYLA??? I do not understand why we change a character's name after the translation. The same also happens in One Piece. How, and who's idea was it to change the name Luffy to Rubber in the Italian version???

S: No, I agree with you. Italian translations do the most random things sometimes. Especially the ones of old anime. Do you know Candy Candy?

M: Nope.

L: No idea.

E: No.

S: Okay. We have Candy, who's our MC, and she's an orphan. The story follows her growth from this air-headed little girl, to a responsible and understanding adult.

In the original both of her love interests leave her because of unfortunate accidents, and so there's an open ending. However, in Italian they completely ignore the intention of the author, and have Candy end up with the second male lead.

It makes me mad because it defeats the purpose of the show, where Candy achieves happiness on her own. She becomes a nurse, or a doctor, I can't remember, and finds people she can finally call family despite not having any blood-relations with them.

This sets it apart from other animes of the same genre, where the protagonist usually gets her happy ending through romance.

E: Sí, sí, hemos entendido.

S: That's not all. Another translation which baffles me with its inaccuracy is Lady Oscar. You know Lady Oscar?

M: Kind of?...

L: Not really...

S: Coinciding with the reign of Marie Antoniette, we have Oscar, who was brought up as a man by her father, for a lack of a male heir in her family.

In the Japanese version most people at court didn't know her real identity, that is, her being a woman.

In Italy, for some inexplicable reason, they decided to play with her gender. I honestly can't describe it in any other way.

Essentially, Lady Oscar's secret, in the Italian version, is no secret at all. Nobles knew and mentioned frequently and casually the fact that she was a woman. In spite of that, she was still treated as a man by most, and only on occasion was she judged for her gender.

That is, until the last ten episodes, where suddenly the original plot kicks in, and it's unacceptable for Oscar to be unmarried and working as a guard.

At the same time, Oscar is having a mental breakdown since their beliefs have been shattered. You see, they had fully adapted to the idea of living as man, and now they were being forced into marriage and womanhood. This, however, also opened new unexplored possibilities to Oscar, as they could finally express their femininity.

All this to say, with the messy and contradictory plot, Lady Oscar accidentally became awesome genderfluid representation.

Silence

...That's It.

M: I find it funny that the translation was more inclusive, because oftentimes it's the contrary. For example in the series Arcane there is a scene where two characters, Vi and Caitlyn, are having an "intercourse". In China they made them "good pals", and cut the scene right before it started. You can still guess what happens though.

Oh, also Sailor Moon, which got the same treatment, although in many more countries, and a lesbian couple, main characters mind you, were turned into cousins. Crazy, right?

🎧 ["Dream lantern"-RADWIMPS] 🎧

E: Y yo quiero hablar de una de mis películas favoritas: Your Name (Kimi no Na wa), de Makoto Shinkai.

Es una película anime hermosa, con una animación espectacular, una historia emocionante y una banda sonora que te llega al corazón.

Pero hay un problema: la traducción del japonés al italiano no siempre transmite exactamente lo que los personajes dicen en la versión original.

No estoy diciendo que la traducción sea mala, pero hay matices, emociones y pequeños detalles que se pierden.

Por ejemplo, en japonés hay diferentes formas de hablar dependiendo de quién eres, a quién te diriges y la relación que tienes con esa persona.

En Your Name, cuando Taki y Mitsuha intercambian cuerpos, su manera de hablar cambia, y en japonés eso se nota mucho.

Taki, siendo un chico, usa un lenguaje más brusco, mientras que Mitsuha es más delicada y usa expresiones más femeninas.

En italiano, esa diferencia no siempre se percibe de la misma manera.

Otro detalle es el significado de los nombres y las referencias culturales.

Por ejemplo, el nombre de Mitsuha (三葉) significa "tres hojas", lo cual tiene un simbolismo especial en la película, pero en la traducción italiana no se explica. También hay palabras y expresiones que tienen un significado muy profundo en japonés, pero que en italiano se traducen de forma más sencilla o directa, perdiendo parte de su impacto emocional.

¡¡¡¡Y NO HABLEMOS DE LAS CANCIONES!!!!

La banda sonora de Your Name, compuesta por RADWIMPS, es increíble, pero las letras en japonés tienen metáforas y juegos de palabras que en la versión italiana no siempre logran transmitir la misma sensación.

No quiero decir que ver la película en italiano sea una mala experiencia.

Al contrario, sigue siendo una obra maestra.

Pero creo que, si puedes, verla en japonés con subtítulos te permite entender mejor la historia y conectar más con los personajes.

Canzone

S: Talking about songs, I simply cannot not mention Hamilton, and its German translation.

German has a reputation for sounding unpleasant and brutish, but wait 'till you hear Warte Noch. The singer did such a good job, I get goosebumps thinking about it.

In addition to the great vocals, if you look through the lyrics, you'll notice that in the German songs, the sentimental tone is ever present. The love songs are more dramatic, with more

allegories and metaphors. They approach the story more seriously, indirectly modifying the characters.

Elizabeth is less determined, and more timid, waiting to be approached, when in the original she was very persistent. Her sister Angelica, in English is actually quite superficial and only **seems** a good sister, while in reality she uses Eliza to keep the man she fancies in her circle. In contrast to that, in German she truly experiences love at first sight, yet acts to benefit Eliza and not herself, as she sincerely wants only the best for her.

Alexander Hamilton stays relatively the same, except he's more dramatic. When he confesses to Eliza in the song Helpless, or Hilflos in German, where she actively sings how helpless she feels, Alexander stops her, and promises she will never feel that way again.

More exactly, he sings briefly about his life, and mentions his mother's passing and how desperate he felt, and says that he'll do anything so that she never undergoes such emotions.

But in German it's a bit different. Instead of comparing Eliza to himself, he swears she'll never feel as helpless as his MOTHER felt when she was on her deathbed. It makes me cry everytime I listen to it, especially since it is followed by Eliza chanting *nur du*, which means *only you*, after he proposes, unlike the simple English *I do*. *Nur du* is more genuine and personal. As I said, it makes me cry every single time.

Canzone

L: That's great. Now, I'd like to talk about Pokémon. They changed almost everything, why? They didn't think people would be able to keep up with the Japanese names.

Ash should be Satoshi, after the man who created Pokémon. Misty's real name is Kasumi and Brock's is Takeshi. Pokémon's names were also modified, but that is understandable, as most were and are wordplays.

They translated foods as well. Onigiri, which are rice balls, in the English version were called donuts. Because that's what they look like. They couldn't have just said rice balls, noooooou. Moving on, if a character was drinking something that looked like alcohol, in English, they changed it to juice, but that's more like censorship.

They didn't really change the plot, thankfully. Some episodes weren't shown outside Japan, either for safety reasons, an example is the Polygon episode which contained flashing lights, or some where James, part of Team Rocket, the villains, crossdresses with the help of fake breasts. At best, the jokes and dialogues were different. Team Rocket's lines were at times revised to make them funnier, but rarely were whole scenes rewritten, only when they had to remove things that were too Japanese or too serious.

Pause

S: After this discussion, do you think you'd still love your favourite shows if you had seen a different version of that media? Or would it not have the same impact?

M: I don't think it's that deep. Obviously, it wouldn't be the same, however, it would, even then, possess most of its good qualities. Do I prefer the original? Yes. Will I still enjoy the translation? Absolutely.

L: I'm obliged to agree. I don't particularly care for the language, as long as the plot doesn't stray.

E: Más o menos estoy de acuerdo, pero diría que depende. A veces, las mejores partes están en los detalles ocultos, y si ni siquiera puedes buscarlos, entonces la historia pierde un poco de su significado.

S: I'm of the same opinion. I believe translations should follow the original flow as closely as possible, and they should try to replicate any symbolism present, though not all things can be conveyed. I'd even say that because of that, you can't truly appreciate something until you've read or watched the authentic work, or have at least done some research.

M: Well, that's your point of view. Anyway, we've reached the end, and we bid you goodbye!

S: Farewell!

L: Stay tuned for more!

E: ¡Que tengan un buen día!

DESCRIPTION

Sofia Lanovenko, Mame Astou Diop, Emily Capacci and Lucia Dong have a discussion about translation, how it sometimes affects pieces of media, and its enjoyment thereof. They mention animated shows, anime and a popular musical called Hamilton.