

MSU Translation Competition 2024: Premio a la mejor traducción

The MSU Translation Center and the Department of Romance and Classical Studies are proud to present the first official MSU Translation Competition. As a way of engaging and improving their language skills outside the classroom, MSU undergraduate students that study or speak Spanish or French are invited to try their hand at literary translation.

Participants will submit the following:

1. An English Translation of a literary source text written in Spanish (around 250 words)
2. Write a reflection detailing your translation process (Min: 500 words)

Evaluation Criteria

1. Translation

- a. Participants will be evaluated on their ability to capture the meaning, content, and voice of the original text. In doing so, they are expected to use both direct and indirect translation techniques. Special attention will be paid to specific cultural references and expressions and how the participant decides to represent these in English. Lastly, participants will need to ensure that their text sounds “natural” in English, conforming to English conventions around grammar and vocabulary.
- b. The translation will account for 80% of the overall score

2. Reflection

- a. Participants will be evaluated on how completely they fulfilled the expectations laid out in the reflection prompt, as well as for correct grammar and spelling.
- b. The reflection will account for 20% of the overall score

Translations will be evaluated by faculty from the Spanish department as well as personnel from the Translation Center. To see specific evaluation criteria, please consult the rubric at the end of this PDF. If you have any questions, reach out to translat@msu.edu or grubbsa@msu.edu.

Awards:

- Financial award and certificate for the best translation and reflection
- Recognition and Publication of the translation on MSU websites like the RCS blog and the Translation Center page

Final submissions must be sent as a single PDF or Word Document to translat@msu.edu with the subject line written as follows: Translation SPN - Last Name, First Name

[Due Date Extended To April 22nd!](#)

¡Buena suerte!

Texto fuente:

Sin comentarios, Almudena Grandes

—Hola, hija, siento llegar tarde, pero el autobús... ¿Me has cogido número? —la más gorda, unos cuarenta años, pelo teñido de rojo, ojeras, gafas, una expresión de asco en la boca, asiente con la cabeza—. Bueno. ¿y tú cómo estás?

—Pues ya te lo puedes figurar... —la más delgada, unos cuarenta, pelo teñido de rojo, sin gafas, el asco colonizado progresivamente su expresión, asiente a su vez con la cabeza— Harta de todo.

—Desde luego es que lo de tu hermana no tiene un pase, vamos, lo he estado pensando y... ¡hay que ver! Qué irresponsabilidad, qué estupidez, qué locura. Meterse en un lío como éste a su edad, y en sus circunstancias...

—Pues ya ves. Cuarenta y cinco años, y no aprenderá nunca. Nunca. ¡A quien se lo cuentes! Separada, sin pensión, con una hija, y estando tan a gusto como estábamos, las dos solas. ¡Qué ganas de buscarse líos, la verdad!

—O sea, que lo conoció en un *chat* de internet... que se metió allí y empezó a hablar con él, vamos...

—Justo. ¿Qué te parece?

—Es increíble. ¡Qué locura! Y el tío es chileno.

—Claro. Porque no los había que hablaran español y vivieran más lejos, que si no se lo habría buscado en China, la muy mema.

—Y no te había contado nada...

—Nada. Hasta que el tío le dijo que se venía a verla. Entonces sí. Entonces me lo dijo, pero como si fuera lo más normal del mundo, no creas... Que se había echado un novio en Chile, y que se venía a verla, y que iba a estar aquí un mes, y que lo iba a meter en casa, por supuesto.

Descripción de autor:

Almudena Grandes (Madrid, 1960-2021) se dio a conocer en 1989 con *Las edades de Lulú*, XI Premio La Sonrisa Vertical. Sus novelas *Te llamaré Viernes*, *Malena es un nombre de tango*, *Atlas de geografía humana*, *Los aires difíciles*, *Castillos de cartón*, *El corazón helado* y *Los besos en el pan*, junto con sus libros de cuentos *Modelos de mujer* y *Estaciones de paso*, la han convertido en una autora imprescindible. La culminación de su carrera fueron las cinco novelas que forman sus *Episodios de una Guerra Interminable*. Adaptada ampliamente al cine y al teatro, mereció, entre otros, el Premio de la Fundación Lara, el Premio de los Libreros de Madrid y el de los de Sevilla, el Arcebispo Juan de San Clemente, el Rapallo Carige, el Prix Méditerranée, el Jean Monet, el Premio de la Crítica de Madrid, el Premio Elena Poniatowska, el Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, y el Premio Nacional de Narrativa. Su fallecimiento en noviembre de 2021 causó un hondo impacto y provocó una emocionante respuesta colectiva, de homenaje y reconocimiento, por parte de sus miles de lectores.

Reflection

Participants are expected to reflect and think critically during the translation process. To gain insight into their process, they are expected to write a reflection of at least 500 words about their translation.

Participants will consider the following:

- How they tried to capture the content, meaning, and voice of the source text
- How they handled and incorporated cultural references potentially unfamiliar to the target audience
- How they overcame cultural, grammatical, and lexical difficulties in the source text
- How they made ensured that the text sounded smooth and idiomatic in the target language

In all, they will explain at least 3 specific elements of their translation as well as 3 major challenges or difficulties they encountered in the source text.

Reflections will be evaluated on their ability to address the criteria above, the thoughtfulness of their reflection, and formal and grammatical correctness of their reflection.

Translation Rubric

	Grammar and Spelling (10%)	Meaning and Content (25%)	Style (25%)	Ease of Translation (20%)	Student Reflection (20%)
4	The final work has few to no grammar and/or spelling mistakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meaning and content of the source text are accurately reflected in the translation Cultural and linguistic nuances are recognized and reflected in the translation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skilled word choice and use of translation techniques (direct and indirect) replicate the voice and style of the original text in the target language Tone is consistent and closely mirrors that of the source text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language is smooth and idiomatic Sentences “flow” and match stylistic codes of the target language Word choice captures the nuances of the source text while being appropriate and natural in the target language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoughtfully and carefully reflects on the translation process Translation choices, difficulties, and challenges are discussed in considerable detail Few to no spelling or grammar mistakes Respects the criteria outlined in the prompt
3	The final work has a few notable grammar and/or spelling mistakes, but these do not impede readability of the text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meaning and content of the source text are generally accurately reflected in the translation Cultural and linguistic nuances are generally reflected in the translation but may have occasionally been misunderstood or omitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally skilled word choice and use of translation techniques (direct and indirect) often replicate the voice and style of the original text in the target language, although the presence of the translator is sometimes felt Tone is generally consistent and mirrors that of the source text, but occasionally strays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language is generally smooth and idiomatic Sentences generally flow and fit target language conventions, but may occasionally read as “clunky” Word choice generally captures the nuances of the source texts but might not always sound natural in the target language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection is generally thoughtful Translation choices, difficulties and challenges are discussed in some detail Some spelling and grammar mistakes Respects most of the criteria outlined in the prompt

2	<p>The final work has several notable grammar and/or spelling mistakes that sometimes impede readability of the text.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meaning and culture of the source text are reflected but several elements are missing • Attempts are made to capture cultural and linguistic nuances but they frequently misunderstood or misrepresented in the translation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word choice and use of translation techniques (direct and indirect) sometimes replicates the voice and style of the original text in the target language, but the presence of the translator is generally felt • Tone is inconsistent and only occasionally mirrors that of the source text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language is often unidiomatic • Sentences and word choice may not match stylistic or cultural norms in the target language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some reflection on the translation process • Some translation choices, difficulties, and challenges are mentioned but with little detail or discussion • Respects most of the criteria outlined in the prompt
1	<p>The final work has many notable grammar and/or spelling mistakes that actively impede readability of the text.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical components of the meaning and content of the source text are missing • Cultural and linguistic nuances are not understood and/or reflected in the translation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voice and style of the original text is not reflected in the translated work; the translator is very visible • Tone does not mirror that of the source text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language is unidiomatic and overly conforms to the source language • Many sentences and words are translated literally, producing cumbersome structures and unusual vocabulary for the target language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little to no reflection on the translation process • Translation choices, difficulties, and challenges are discussed in insufficient detail or are not discussed at all • Does not respect the criteria outlined in the prompt