

Methodology in journalistic translation

Lecture 1 · What is journalistic translation, and where is the source text?

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Outline

- Introduction: where does your foreign news come from?
- From a “ideational” model of translation to translation in the news
- Key terms
- The role of translation in the news
- Three kinds of translation (Jakobson 1959)
- Where is the source text? Five properties of news source texts
- Framing and localization in translated news
- In-class exercise: the Goncourt and the AI suspicion
- Assignment for next week: “Fair trade over tariffs” (EU–Mercosur, 2026)

Translation

- 1 What do you do know about translation? How would you define it?
- 2 Can you name different types of translation?
- 3 Is there differences between the various translation types identified?

Pairs, then show of hands

3 minutes in groups of 3.

Keep your answers: we return to them collectively right after

Translation and foreign news

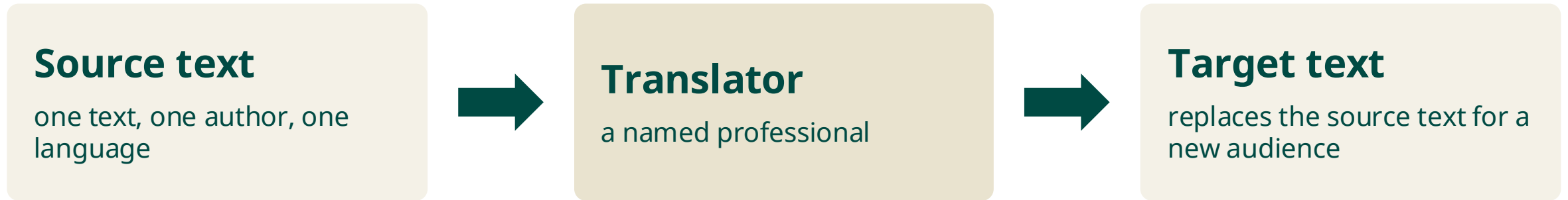
- 1 Think of the last article you read about an event taking place abroad. In which language did the event take place?
- 2 Whose words were quoted? Who translated them – and is a translator named anywhere?
- 3 Was the word “translation” mentioned at all? Would you be able to find the original?

Pairs, then show of hands

10 minutes in groups of 3.

Keep your answers: we return to them collectively right after

A “ideational” model of translation



What the model takes for granted



Dimension	Equivalence-based model (idealized model)	News translation as recontextualization
Source text	A single, stable, identifiable original.	Multiple and often changing sources (agency wires, press releases, other media, quotations, own reporting); the "original" may be hard to pin down.
Who translates	A professional translator.	Usually a journalist or editor, rarely trained as a translator.
Translator's role	Mediator bound somehow to the source text.	Gatekeeper and "transeditor" who selects, edits and rewrites.
Main operations	Transfer of meaning, preserving source text where possible.	Selection, omission, addition, reordering, summarizing and localization.
Aim	Equivalence with the source text.	Relevance to the target audience, within the outlet's editorial line and genre conventions.
Visibility of translation	The text is presented as a translation; the translator is often named.	Translation is rarely marked and blends into journalistic writing.
Constraints	Time and space for revision vary.	Extreme time pressure, space limits, house style.

The role of translation in the news

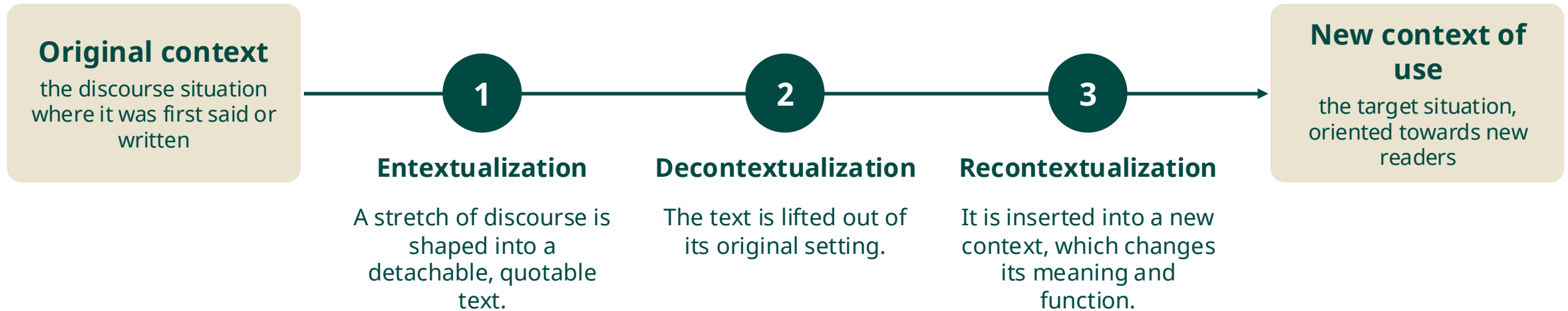
- Translation is an integral part of news production
 - Any event reported beyond national borders where a different language is spoken involves translation
- Historically central to news since its very beginning:
 - Pamphlets and news translated across European countries (Valdeón 2012a: 855; Valdeón 2015: 441; McLaughlin 2015, 2021)
 - Early newspapers largely built on translations of foreign news
- News was mostly written by translators or people with language skills, whose work was gradually taken over by journalists (Zanettin 2024: 47)
- As demand for original domestic content grew, translation became integrated into journalistic workflows rather than a distinct activity (ibid.: 859)

What news translation essentially is

- News translation moves discourse from one context to another.
- It is dependent on two contexts:
 - the original discourse situation, anchored in a specific discourse context,
 - and the target discourse situation, located in and oriented towards a new context of use (Slembrouck 1999, Baker 2006).
- an instance of entextualization (Kang 2007: 221), which involves extracting 'discourse' out of its original setting and rendering it into a 'text', a stretch of language that is made manageable and controllable for the purposes of recontextualization (Bauman and Briggs 1990, Sarangi 1998).

What news translation essentially is

News translation as entextualization (Kang 2007: 221): an instance of entextualization (Kang 2007: 221), which involves extracting 'discourse' out of its original setting and rendering it into a 'text', a stretch of language that is made manageable and controllable for the purposes of recontextualization (Bauman and Briggs 1990, Sarangi 1998).



The invisibility of translation in news production

- Despite its historically central role, translation is largely invisible in news production and considered secondary to journalistic work
- Journalists rarely identify themselves as translators, yet news production relies heavily on foreign language sources and thus on translation (van Doorslaer 2010a; Perrin & Ehrenberg-Dow 2012; Haapanen and Perrin 2019; Valdeón 2012: 858)
- This invisibility stems from the unique norms of news translation:
 - Translation is completely integrated into the news process (van Doorslaer 2010b: 181)
 - Any trace of translation is erased from the final text (Hernández Guerrero 2011: 115)

Key terms for this course

Source text / target text

The text a translation is made from, and the translation made from it. In the news, the “source” is often several texts – or none that can be found.

News agency (wire)

A service that sells news copy to other media: AFP, AP, Reuters, EFE, dpa, ANSA, Lusa... Much foreign news reaches readers through agencies.

First-hand vs second-hand source

First-hand: the journalist’s own access (interview, speech, press conference). Second-hand: material already published by others.

Direct vs indirect quotation

Direct: presented as the speaker’s own words, in quotation marks.
Indirect: reported in the journalist’s words (“she said that...”).

Reporting verb

The verb that introduces a quotation (said, claimed, admitted, joked...). It frames how readers interpret the words.

De- and recontextualisation

Lifting words out of their original setting and placing them in a new one (Bauman and Briggs 1990).

Framing and localization

Framing

Selecting some aspects of an event and making them more salient, so that one interpretation is promoted (Entman 1993: 52).

- Headline and lead: what is the story about?
- Selection and order of the facts
- Choices of labels and reporting verbs (accused, claimed, revealed...)
- Hedges: allegation or fact?
- Whose voices are quoted

Localization

Adapting global news to a local audience (Orengo 2005; Bielsa and Bassnett 2009) – framing through adaptation, which can shade into appropriation (Valdeón 2014).

- A local angle or national connection
- Background added for local readers
- Names, titles, allusions: kept, translated or explained?
- House style: spelling, accents, units
- What local readers are not told

In-class exercise: how is the recent Goncourt case in France framed – and how is it brought home to your respective readers?

Three kinds of translation

Jakobson (1959) as an analytical tool



Source texts in foreign reporting

<https://www.hs.fi/maailma/art-2000008771072.html>

Ranskan vaalit

Emmanuel Macron voitti Ranskan presidentinvaalit – Macron voitonpuheessaan: "Emme jätä ketään tienvarteeseen Ranskassa"

Ranska valitsi presidentin jatkokaudelle ensimmäistä kertaa 20 vuoteen.



Pekka Torvinen HS, Inkeri Harju HS

24.4.2022 18:22 | Päivitetty 25.4.2022 6:18

RANSKAN presidentinvaalien toisen kierroksen voitti istuva presidentti Emmanuel Macron.

Kun kaikki äänet oli laskettu, Macron sai äänistä noin 58,6 prosenttia ja **Marine Le Pen** noin 41,5 prosenttia, kertoi maan sisäministeriö.

Lopullinen tulos vastasi hyvin sunnuntaina julkistettuja ennusteita. Ipsos-tutkimuslaitoksen kello 22.23 Suomen aikaa kertoman ennusteen mukaan Macron oli saamassa toisen kierroksen äänistä 58,8 prosenttia, kun Le Pen oli jäämässä 41,2 prosenttiin. Myös muiden tutkimuslaitosten ennusteet lupasivat Macronille noin 57,6–58 prosenttia äänistä, uutistoimisto Reuters kertoo.

Le Pen myönsi vaalitappionsa noin viisitoista minuuttia tulosenennusteen julkistamisen jälkeen.



Source texts in foreign reporting

Emmanuel Macron voitti Ranskan

presidentinvaalin voiton
puheessaan: "Emme jätä ketään tien-
varteen Ranskassa"

Ranskan vaalit | Ranska valitsi presidentin jatkokaudelle



Pekka Torvinen HS, Inkeri Harju HS
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"Meidän on vastattava tähän", Macron sanoi Reutersin mukaan.

Hän sanoi myös ajattelevansa niitä pettyneitä äänestäjiä, jotka äänestivät Le Peniä.

TULOSENNUSTEEN julkistamisen jälkeen Pariisin keskustassa on ollut

mukaan kyynelkaasulla. Macron kommentoi tätä sanomalla puheessaan, että Le Peniä äänestäneiden vihaan on vastattava.

"Emme jätä ketään tienvarteen Ranskassa."

Macron kertoi puheessa ymmärtävänsä, että osa ranskalaisista äänesti häntä vain estääkseen Le Penin valtaannousun. Macron kertoi pitävänsä tätä korkeassa arvossa ja olevansa velkaa näille äänestäjille, kertoo [The Guardian](#).

Lue lisää: Tutkija: Ranskan vaalit osoittivat, miten syvästi polarisoitunut ranskalainen yhteiskunta on, ja horisontissa silintää suuri epävarmuus

Macron sanoi myös, että hänen seuraava viisivuotiskautensa ei tule olemaan hänen aiemmin saamansa mandaatin jatkumo, vaan kaudesta tulee erilainen.

LE PENIN vaalivalvojisissa sen sijaan kuului paljon buuauksia ennusteiden julkaisun jälkeen.

Viisitoista minuuttia ennusteiden julkaisun jälkeen Le Pen nousi lavalle ja myönsi tappionsa. Hän kuitenkin sanoi, että tulos on "voitto" hänen poliittiselle liikkeelleen, eikä hän onnitellut Macronia.

"Meidät on julistettu kuolleiksi tuhat kertaa, ja tuhat kertaa he ovat olleet väärässä", Le Pen sanoi.

Hän käänsi jo katseet kohti kesäkuun parlamenttivaaleja. Le Pen varoitti kannattajiaan "suuresta riskistä" eli siitä, että Macronin puolue saattaa saada enemmistön kesäkuun vaaleissa. Samalla hän julisti, että hänen äärioikealle sijoittuva Kansallinen liittouma -puolueensa on valmis "yhdistämään kaikki, jotka haluavat liittoutua Macronia vastaan".

Perinteisesti ranskalaiset ovat äänestäneet vastavaihtun presidentin puolueelle enemmistön parlamentissa, mutta tänä vuonna se on Macronin epäsuosion takia aiempaa epävarmempaa.



Macronin kannattajat odottivat äänestystulosta Pariisissa. Kuva: Ludovic Marin / AFP

<https://www.hs.fi/maailma/art-2000008771072.html>

Jakobson's (1959) broad conception of translation

- **intralingual translation** or “rewording” refers to “an interpretation of verbal signs by means of other signs of the same language” (Jakobson 1959: 139) i.e. any text that has been rewritten or paraphrased in the same language.
- **intersemiotic translation:** translation between a language and a different semiotic system, “an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language” (Jakobson 1959: 233).
- **interlingual translation**, or translation proper as “an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language” (Jakobson 1959: 233).

Direct Interlingual translation (‘translation proper’)

Hän tekee ranskan kielen persoonapronominilla selväksi, kumman sukupuolen ehdokkaalle ääni menee. Nainen se on. Anseaume sanoo, että heidän kotiinsa on murtauduttu kolme kertaa. *HS*, 7.5.2017

‘His usage of the French personal pronoun reveals the gender of the candidate who will receive his vote. It’s a woman. Anseaume says their home has been broken into three times.’

Tunnin ajomatkan päässä Macron- Pariisista äänestetään ylpeinä Le Peniä – ”Tuo tuossa on oikea rasisti”

HS Pariisissa | HS tutustui Ranskan presidentinvaalien äänestyspäivänä Pariisin lähellä sijaitsevaan Mantes-la-Villeen, jossa pormestarikin edustaa äärioikeistolaista Kansallista rintamaa. Siellä rajojen sulkemista lupaavan Le Penin äänestäjiä ei tarvitse kauaa etsiä.



Michel Vernier äänestää Marine Le Peniä. Hänen mukaansa kotikylä Mantes-la-Villessä ei enää uskalla kulkea iltaisin. Kuva: Heidi Piironen

Petja Pelli HS
7.5.2017 16:58

PARIISIN keskustan kahviloiden nurkilla on mahdotonta tehdä tasapuolista äänestysreportaasia. Kansallisen rintaman **Marine Le Penin** äänestäjiä ei sieltä löydä.

Tänä sateisena sunnuntaina murskaava enemmistö pariisilaisista joko äänestää keskustaliberaalia ja EU-myönteistä **Emmanuel Macronia** tai jää kotiin petyttyään siihen, että radikaalivasemmiston **Jean-Luc Mélenchon** tai keskustaoikeiston **François Fillon** ei aivan päässyt toiselle kierrokselle.

Tunnin ajomatkan päässä Pariisista alkaa kuitenkin toinen todellisuus.

Viitisenkymmentä kilometriä Pariisista länteen sijaitsevaan Mantes-la-Villeen valittiin kolme vuotta sitten jopa Kansallista rintamaa edustava pormestari.

AINAKIN päällisin puolin paikka näyttää mukavalta. Tämähän on ranskalainen kylä. On vanhoja harjakattoisia kivitaloja ja tietenkin sunnuntaitori, jossa pöydät notkuvat yrteistä, meloneista, omenoista ja retiiseistä. Juustopöydällä on mittaa kymmenisen metriä.

Torin laidalla seisova eläkeläinen **Michel Vernier** sanoo kuitenkin

Indirect interlingual translation

Macron kertoi puheessa ymmärtävänsä, että osa ranskalaisista äänesti häntä vain estääkseen Le Penin valtaannousun. Macron kertoi pitävänsä tätä korkeassa arvossa ja olevansa velkaa näille äänestäjille, kertoo **The Guardian**. HS, 24.4.2022

‘Macron said in his speech that he understood that some French people voted for him only to prevent Le Pen from gaining power. Macron said he held this in high esteem and that he was in debt to these voters, reports The Guardian.’

Emmanuel Macron voitti Ranskan presidentinvaalit – Macron voitonpuheessaan: "Emme jätä ketään tienvarteen Ranskassa"

Ranskan vaalit | Ranska valitsi presidentin jatkokaudelle ensimmäistä kertaa 20 vuoteen.



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Hän sanoi myös ajattelevansa niitä pettyneitä äänestäjiä, jotka äänestivät Le Peniä.

TULOSENNUSTEEN julkistamisen jälkeen Pariisin keskustassa on ollut protestteja, joihin mellakkapoliisi on vastannut sosiaalisen median sisällön mukaan kyynelkaasulla. Macron kommentoi tätä sanomalla puheessaan, että Le Peniä äänestäneiden vihaa on vastattava.

"Emme jätä ketään tienvarteen Ranskassa."

Macron kertoi puheessa ymmärtävänsä, että osa ranskalaisista äänesti häntä vain estääkseen Le Penin valtaannousun. Macron kertoi pitävänsä tätä korkeassa arvossa ja olevansa velkaa näille äänestäjille, kertoo [The Guardian](#).

"En ole enää yhden leirin kandidaatti, vaan koko kansan presidentti."

Lue lisää: Tutkija: Ranskan vaalit osoittivat, miten syvästi polarisoitunut ranskalainen yhteiskunta on, ja horisontissa siintää suuri epävarmuus

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Intralingual translation

Sarkozy kirjoittaa Facebookissa, että Macronilla on tarpeellista kokemusta vakavan kansainvälisen kriisin hoitamiseen. STT-AFP, in HS, 13.4.2022

Sarkozy writes on Facebook that Macron has the necessary experience to deal with a serious international crisis.

Entinen presidentti Nicolas Sarkozy tukee Macronia Ranskan presidentinvaaleissa

Ranska | Sarkozyn oman konservatiivisen puolueen ehdokas Valerie Pécresse sai viime sunnuntai ensimmäisellä kierroksella vain vajaat viisi prosenttia äänistä.



Nicolas Sarkozy toimi Ranskan presidenttinä vuosina 2007–2012. Kuva: Thomas Coex / AFP

STT-AFP
12.4.2022 12:27

RANSKAN entinen oikeistolainen presidentti **Nicolas Sarkozy** ilmoitti tiistaina äänestävänsä keskustalaista **Emmanuel Macronia** presidentinvaalien toisella kierroksella.

Sarkozy kirjoittaa Facebookissa, että Macronilla on tarpeellista kokemusta vakavan kansainvälisen kriisin hoitamiseen. Macron on myös yksiselitteisesti sitoutunut Eurooppaan, Sarkozy jatkaa.

Sarkozyn oman konservatiivisen puolueen ehdokas **Valerie Pécresse** sai viime sunnuntai ensimmäisellä kierroksella vain vajaat viisi prosenttia äänistä.

Ranskan presidentinvaalien toisella kierroksella ovat vastakkain nykyinen presidentti Macron ja äärioikeiston **Marine Le Pen**. Kyselyt povaavat Macronille niukkaa voittoa. Ratkaiseva äänestys järjestetään 24. huhtikuuta.

Intersemiotic translation

Ranskan presidentinvaalien ensimmäisen kierroksen on voittanut istuva presidentti, liberaali Emmanuel Macron. Hän sai 27,35 prosenttia äänistä, kun annetuista äänistä 97 prosenttia oli laskettu.

Toiseksi tuli äärioikeistolainen Marine Le Pen. Hän sai 23,97 prosenttia äänistä. Asiasta kertoo muun muassa BBC. HS, 10.4.2022

‘The first round of the French presidential election has been won by the sitting president, the liberal Emmanuel Macron. He won 27.35% of the vote, after 97% of the votes cast had been counted.

Second came far-right Marine Le Pen. She received 23.97% of the vote. The BBC, among others, reports.’

BBC

Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Arts Travel Earth Audio Video Live

French elections: Macron and Le Pen to fight for presidency

11 April 2022

Paul Kirby
BBC News, Paris



Search: Emmanuel Macron says he will carry 'all the different communities and beliefs' if re-elected

Emmanuel Macron has won the first round of the French election and far-right rival Marine Le Pen will fight him for the presidency for a second time.

"Make no mistake, nothing is decided," he told cheering supporters.

In the end, he won a convincing first-round victory, but opinion polls suggest the run-off could be much closer.

Ms Le Pen called on every non-Macron voter to join her and "put France back in order".

With 97% of results counted, Emmanuel Macron had 27.6% of the vote, Marine Le Pen 23.41% and Jean-Luc Mélenchon 21.95%.

Kingmaker on far left

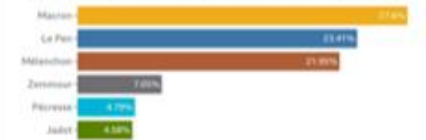
Veteran far-left candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon polled even better than five years ago and now has the unlikely role of kingmaker.

"You must not give a single vote to Marine Le Pen," he warned his supporters, but unlike other candidates, he pointedly did not back the president instead. Later in the evening, Mélenchon activists gathered outside his campaign HQ thinking he might even come second, but it was not to be.

Making up more than a fifth of the vote, Mélenchon voters could decide the final round of this election, yet many of them may just sit at the second round out and abstain.

French presidential election: First round results

Percentage of votes per candidate (after 97% of results counted)



Other candidates: Jean Lassalle 3.16; Fabien Roussel 2.31; Nicolas Dupont-Aignan 2.07%; Anne Hidalgo 1.74%; Philippe Poutou 0.77%; Nathalie Arthaud 0.57%.

Twelve candidates were in the running but these were the only three who polled more than 10%. Many voters appeared to embrace the idea of tactical or "useful" voting, deciding that the other nine candidates had no hope of making the run-off.



Search: We can create a stronger France. - Marine Le Pen

A short case study: The Goncourt and the AI accusation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y8uF2eFYA4>
See also: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/Dd5qvEsDu-L/>

For more info on the case...

- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/thelyson-orelien-ai-scandal-9.7355167>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ck7v4y45893go>
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/12053881/from-haiti-to-canada-a-quebec-debut-novel-reaches-for-frances-top-literary-prizes/>
- In French Public broadcast news:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P79TUZGNIkS>

The Goncourt and the AI accusation

1

21 September

An anonymous X account, “Balance ton Claude”, claims that Thélyson Orélien’s novel *C’était ça ou mourir* was written almost entirely by AI (detector: Pangram).

2

22–24 September

Reports of plagiarism in the author’s earlier texts. His Canadian publisher, Boréal, suspends promotion of the book.

3

25 September

The Académie Goncourt removes the novel from its first selection, citing the plagiarism and “convergent” analyses of AI use.

4

Contested

Orélien denies using AI. AFP runs the text through seven other detectors: the results diverge.

Source text we will track (Académie Goncourt): « selon toute vraisemblance très largement le produit d’une Intelligence Artificielle ». How is the affair framed in your language – and does this hedge survive?

In-class exercise: the communiqué in Le Monde and Reuters (English versions)

- 1 In language groups, find one or two reports of the story. Search: Orélien Goncourt + IA / KI / inteligência artificial / inteligență artificială.
- 2 **First-hand sources:** what is quoted from the Académie Goncourt
- 3 **Second-hand sources:** which secondary sources are cited (which agency, other media outlet), if any?
- 4 **Framing:** accusation or fact in the headline and lead? Is « selon toute vraisemblance » kept? Which angle – AI, plagiarism, race, scandal?
- 5 **Localization:** title translated? “Balance ton Claude” explained? A local angle added? Note accents in the author’s name, spelling, dates.
- 6 **Chain of source texts:** draw it – communiqué → agency? → outlet?

French group

You are the source-text checkers: compare a French outlet that ran the AFP dispatch with one that did its own reporting, and tell the others what the original says.

Timing

12 minutes: 5 to search, 7 to fill in the fingerprints.

Screenshot what you find: articles change after publication.

Media outlet to look at

- Group 1
- https://www.lemonde.fr/en/pixels/article/2026/09/25/french-literary-prize-removes-novel-from-longlist-after-claims-of-using-ai_6757946_13.html?srsId=AU7gw4VCZIVZHqnktwt3_aUvKJBxPwrcSFjFqIJm5EHIRALN1xNOIE73
- Group 2
- <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/frances-prestigious-goncourt-prize-drops-novel-after-author-accused-using-ai-2026-09-25/>

In-class exercise: one source, two articles – fill in

Académie Goncourt (French)	Le Monde with AFP (English)*	Reuters (English)**
« <i>selon toute vraisemblance très largement le produit d'une Intelligence Artificielle</i> »		
« <i>promouvoir et couronner la littérature écrite par des femmes et des hommes</i> »		
« <i>nous ne cautionnons ni n'adoubons [...] la création de textes générés avec l'aide de l'IA</i> »		
« <i>Balance ton Claude</i> » (name of the X account)		

*https://www.lemonde.fr/en/pixels/article/2026/09/25/french-literary-prize-removes-novel-from-longlist-after-claims-of-using-ai_6757946_13.html?srsId=AU7gw4VCZIVZHqnktwt3_aUvKJBxPwrcSFjFqIjm5EHIRALN1xNOIE73

** <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/frances-prestigious-goncourt-prize-drops-novel-after-author-accused-using-ai-2026-09-25/>

Debrief

Académie Goncourt (French)	Le monde with AFP (English)*	Reuters (English)**
« selon toute vraisemblance très largement le produit d'une Intelligence Artificielle »	"in all likelihood, very largely the product of artificial intelligence"	— (frames it as "accusations he used AI")
« promouvoir et couronner la littérature écrite par des femmes et des hommes »	"promote and honour literature written by women and men"	"promote and honour literature written by women and men"
« nous ne cautionnons ni n'adoubons [...] la création de textes générés avec l'aide de l'IA »	"we do not endorse or sanction in any way the creation of texts generated with the help of AI"	fully against the "creation of texts generated with the assistance of AI"
« Balance ton Claude » (name of the X account)	"Balance ton Claude" (Expose Your Claude)	"Balance ton Claude" (no gloss a little-known X account)

Sanction: approve or punish? An ambiguous choice for adouber (validate, approve) (literally "to knight").

*https://www.lemonde.fr/en/pixels/article/2026/09/25/french-literary-prize-removes-novel-from-longlist-after-claims-of-using-ai_6757946_13.html?srsId=AU7gw4VCZIVZHqnktwt3_aUvKJBxPwrcSFjFqIjm5EHIRALN1xNOIE73

** <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/frances-prestigious-goncourt-prize-drops-novel-after-author-accused-using-ai-2026-09-25/>

Assignment: choose A or B
Case study for 8.10.2026:



- A. The Goncourt communiqué in your language ·
- B. "Fair trade over tariffs": von der Leyen in Asunción, 17 January 2026

Case A: The Goncourt and the AI accusation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y8uF2eFYA4>
See also: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/Dd5qvEsDu-L/>

Case A: more on the story

- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/thelyson-orelien-ai-scandal-9.7355167>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ck7v4y45893go>
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/12053881/from-haiti-to-canada-a-quebec-debut-novel-reaches-for-frances-top-literary-prizes/>
- In French Public broadcast news:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P79TUZGNIkS>

Case A: The Goncourt and the AI accusation

1

21 September

An anonymous X account, “Balance ton Claude”, claims that Thélyson Orélien’s novel *C’était ça ou mourir* was written almost entirely by AI (detector: Pangram).

2

22–24 September

Reports of plagiarism in the author’s earlier texts. His Canadian publisher, Boréal, suspends promotion of the book.

3

25 September

The Académie Goncourt removes the novel from its first selection, citing the plagiarism and “convergent” analyses of AI use.

4

Contested

Orélien denies using AI. AFP runs the text through seven other detectors: the results diverge.

Source text we will track (Académie Goncourt): « selon toute vraisemblance très largement le produit d’une Intelligence Artificielle ». How is the affair framed in your language – and does this hedge survive?

In-class exercise: the communiqué in two articles

- 1 In pairs, read the two articles handed out (Le Monde with AFP; Reuters) and underline every quotation from the Académie Goncourt.
- 2 **First-hand sources:** what is quoted from the Académie Goncourt – directly or indirectly?
- 3 **Second-hand sources:** which secondary sources are cited (agency, other media), if any?
- 4 **Framing:** accusation or fact in the headline and lead? Is « selon toute vraisemblance » kept? Which angle?
- 5 **Localization:** title translated? “Balance ton Claude” explained? Accents, spelling, dates?
- 6 **Chain of source texts:** draw it – communiqué → agency? → article.

French speakers

Check the quotations against the French original on the previous slide, and tell your partner what the communiqué actually says.

Timing

12 minutes: 4 to read, 8 to compare.

Keep your notes: they are the starting point of Assignment A.

OPTION B: the Mercosur agreement



(Source: European Commission
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQ7bAa8QIoQ>)

Option B: 25 years in the making

1

9 January

The Council approves the signature by qualified majority (21 in favour), despite French farmers' protests.

2

16 January

Von der Leyen and António Costa meet President Lula in Rio de Janeiro.

3

17 January

Signing ceremony in Asunción. The same day, Trump announces tariffs on eight European countries over Greenland.

4

21 January

The European Parliament asks the EU Court of Justice for an opinion, by a narrow margin.

5

Since then

Ratification continues on both sides of the Atlantic.

Background for Option B: from the speech in Asunción to the three agency versions. **Your task:** follow the quote into your own language.

Option B: three English versions

Which source text was used in the outlet you chose?

The speech was filmed – and there are already three versions in English:

The prepared text

“...we choose a productive, long-term partnership, and above all...”
(Commission, “check against delivery”)
No “over isolation”.

The delivered speech

“We choose a productive, long-term partnership over isolation.”
(Reuters video)
“...a very strong message to the world” (Reuters wire)
She added “over isolation” while speaking.

AFP’s version

“we chose a productive long-term partnership over isolation”
Past tense – a fingerprint of AFP copy.

Several intralingual translation: which version does your outlet follow – the text, the recording or AFP? **In your language:** how is “fair trade” rendered – does it sound like the Fairtrade label?

Assignment: A or B – the same two steps

- 1 Step 1 – Trace: find one article in your language (FR, ES, PT, DE or RO) that quotes A. the Académie Goncourt (25–27 September 2026) or B. von der Leyen in Asunción (17–20 January 2026).
- 2 Identify which version it follows (A: AFP, Reuters or the French communiqué; B: prepared text, delivered speech or AFP), read the credit line and fill in one row of the comparison grid.
- 3 Draw the chain from the source to your outlet and label each step: intralingual, interlingual or intersemiotic.
- 4 Step 2 – Reflect (200–300 words): how hard or easy was it to trace the source texts, and why?
- 5 What frame did the outlet adopt? Look at the headline, the reporting verb, the other voices quoted and any national angle.

Deliverable

One page: grid row, chain diagram, reflection, link and screenshot. Bring it to the next session.

Reading

van Doorslaer, L. (2010b). Journalism and translation. In Handbook of Translation Studies, vol. 1, 180–184.

Optional: Davier and van Doorslaer (2018).

Comparison grid

Media outlet	Medium	Date / time	Language	Quote (Académie Goncourt or von der Leyen)	Form of the quote (direct / indirect + reporting verb)	Source cited in the article (+ language)	Version followed? Clues
B · Reuters wire	Website	17.1.2026	English	"We choose fair trade over tariffs..."	Direct; "she said"	Signing speech, Asunción (English)	— (this is the wire itself)
A · AFP in English	Website	25.9.2026	English	"in all likelihood, very largely the product of artificial intelligence"	Direct; "the Academy said"	Académie Goncourt communiqué (French)	— (this is the wire itself)

Practical tips for collecting news data

Archive as you go

1

Save the URL, the date and time of access, and a screenshot or PDF. Online articles are updated without notice.

Search smart

2

Search distinctive words in the source language (e.g. "fair trade over tariffs") as well as in your own language.

Read the indirect sources (credit line)

3

Look for agency names (EFE, AFP, Reuters, dpa, ANSA, Lusa) at the top or bottom of the article.

Set a limit

4

Stop after 45 minutes and note what you tried. A dead end is also a finding.

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Thank you

