

Il testo, di carattere scientifico-divulgativo, pur non presentando particolari difficoltà, richiede una scelta lessicale attenta, come nel caso del verbo to see (nota 3), o dei verbi to transplant e to translate. Si rispetti la suddivisione in paragrafi e si utilizzino le note come guida alla traduzione.

Cell transplants

Cell transplants¹ have successfully restored vision to mice which had² eye damage similar to that seen³ in many human eye diseases and had lost their sight. Stem cells, in fact, can turn into any kind of cell in the body.

UK scientists were able to help these mice see again by transplanting⁴ retinal stem cells into their eyes⁵.

If the results can be translated into a treatment for human eye disease, it⁶ could help the millions of people with macular⁷ degeneration or other diseases.

Treatments are being developed⁸ to prevent or delay the loss of photoreceptors, but scientists are also seeking to help those already affected.

Previous attempts to transplant stem cells in the hope that they will become⁹ photoreceptors have failed because the cells were not developed enough.

1. Si rifletta sulla possibilità di utilizzare il singolare in italiano.
2. Il pronome relativo introduce due frasi coordinate. In presenza di un'unica frase a volte si può eliminare la relativa, inserendo al suo posto un “con”. In questo caso è possibile?
3. Privilegiare l'uso di un termine più specifico: il corrispettivo “vedere” non appare la soluzione migliore.
4. Si valuti la possibilità di ricorrere a una nominalizzazione.
5. Attenzione all'ordine in italiano!
6. Si rifletta bene su come tradurre *it*.
7. È opportuno sostituire l'aggettivo con un complemento di specificazione.
8. Il “sì” passivante appare la soluzione migliore per la traduzione del passivo.
9. Attenzione! In italiano è possibile usare il futuro?

TRANSLATING SIMONE DE BEAUVIOR

We went round and round, however, translating the word ‘martingale’. The French:

Nous portions toutes les trois des manteaux bleu horizon, taillés dans du vrai drap d’officier et coupés exactement comme des capotes militaires.

« Regardez, il y a même une petite martingale ! » disait maman à ses amies admiratives ou étonnées.

I looked up ‘martingale’, and found it was that little belt-like thing at the back of a coat, at the waist, to sort of nip it in. But how to render it? I was concerned that readers wouldn’t know what one was – I certainly didn’t. I tried: “Look! There’s even a little belt at the back”. But that didn’t seem sufficient; if it’s just a piece of fabric, it doesn’t make sense that her mother’s friends would be either impressed or ‘astonished’ or ‘amazed’ [étonnées].

I reread *Mémoires d’une jeune fille rangée* (1958) while I worked, in both French and its English translation by James Kirkup, to get a sense of how Beauvoir wrote publicly about Zaza. Some of the wording was identical; Beauvoir must have lifted it from the unpublished manuscript of *The Inseparables* and repurposed it for the book she knew she was going to publish. This passage is one of those which appears in both texts. I looked at the English translation of the *Memoirs*, and saw Kirkup translated it as ‘bayonet frog’.

I didn’t know what a bayonet frog was, but could infer that it sounded more military and provided a clue as to the mother’s friends’ reactions. I tried it out in a draft. Just tried it out, mind you; I still hadn’t made up my mind. When the French publishers saw ‘bayonet frog’ they were understandably, nonplussed. ‘A martingale’, they informed me, ‘is an elegant piece of fabric at the back of a coat’. I decided to overlook the mansplaining (or, for all I know, the womansplaining; this was an anonymous person leaving me comments in a Word document). ‘But why would that astonish and impress people?’ I pressed them. ‘They are impressed because not only the mother made the coats but also she added this martingale which make all of it even more elegant’, they answered. They strongly recommended I leave it as martingale, so I complied, allowing it to be a moment of unfamiliarity in the text, the sort where some readers would be inspired to go and look up the word, while others would read on.

All three of us wore sky-blue coats, made of real officer’s serge and cut exactly like military greatcoats. ‘Look! there’s even a little martingale at the back’, my mother would show her friends, who were admiring, or taken aback.

From *Translating Simone de Beauvoir*, by Lauren Elkin

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