

## Functional theories of translation

**Matching.** Draw a line to match the core idea to the right theorist.

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| <b>Hans J. Vermeer</b>   | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The translator has a bilateral responsibility to both the ST author and the TT recipient</li><li>• The TT is determined by its purpose (<i>Skopos</i>); the ST is "dethroned".</li></ul>   |
| <b>Katharina Reiss</b>   | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equivalence must be sought at the text level (Informative, Expressive, Operative).</li><li>• Translation is a communicative process involving roles like the <i>initiator</i> and <i>commissioner</i></li></ul>  |
| <b>Holz-Mänttari</b>     | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Texts don't fit neatly into fixed categories; they exist on a <i>sliding scale</i> (prototypes)</li><li>• Both linguistic and non-linguistic determinants are included in translation assessment criteria.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Christiane Nord</b>   | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loyalty is an interpersonal category; it is a commitment to everyone involved in the process.</li></ul>  |
| <b>Mary Snell-Hornby</b> | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ST is analyzed for its content (factual information + communication strategy) and form (terminology + cohesion).</li><li>• A good translation theory should cover all types of texts, from poetry to technical manuals</li><li>• It doesn't pay enough attention to the micro-level linguistic features of the ST or the TT.</li></ul> |

**Open-ended reflection questions.** Imagine you have been hired to translate this ST into Spanish. This text was written by **Ernest Hemingway**, an American author. You have been asked to translate this passage for a **children's school anthology in Latin America**.

ST: "The cot the man lay on was in the wide shade of a mimosa tree and as he looked out past the shade onto the glare of the plain there were three of the big birds squatted obscenely, while in the sky a dozen more sailed, making quick-moving shadows as they passed."

1. According to **Reiss's text typology**, what text type is this passage? Do you think that the classification would affect the way that you approached the translation?

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2. Based on **Skopos theory**, would you translate this text literally, or would you make changes? What would you change and why?

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3. Considering the **language dimension** of this text (its imagery, tone, and style), what elements would you prioritize when translating for a child audience in Latin America?

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4. Overall, do you consider that your translation would **serve the author** or **serve the reader**? Can it do both?

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