# Second Thematic project

What is a book?

Or why translation, Chinese whispers and noise?

Conceptual layout of the practical work for the thematic project

For the practical part of the second thematic project I became interested in dealing with 1) what are the fine bindings, the limits, borders of the space of a book, outside its literal condition 2) the process of loosing meaning. Why? Because, when I had to think of the role of the book today, and how it can be considered, the book as medium served as a starting point to deal with the concept the book carries within, and the strength of that concept. More precisely, after the Death of the author, and so-called deaths of the book itself, the book as concept remains as strong an authority as ever. It's present in the realm of language, meaning, reading and writing, and in the moment of today is vivid in the amount of production, the simultaneous amount of reading and writing that is being conducted via online means. In comparison to a former situation of the authority of books as media (ultimate placeholders for reading and writing, also privileged ones, not accessible to all), the amount of writing today is maybe even surpassing the amount of reading. Or if not, certainly is equally present.

When I try to think of

"The important question: What are the particular outcomes and effects of mistranslations? Which concrete situations can you trigger and explore with the tools you created?", what could be an interesting viewpoint is what are the mistranslations outcomes of. The mistranslations are inevitable in a hyperbolic, erasable but constant production of content.

They are the literal representation of a communication gap, noise that arises through the constant exchange of content (words, information, knowledge) and rise of translation applications, that can be further carried via Chinese whispers more through a rhizomatic structure than a linear one. The project was first realized in a book to show (illustrate) the gradualness of this process.

I will try to give a more clear, and pragmatic context to this idea through a few examples in concrete situations, showing different possibilities, and concerning different aspects, but sharing topics of interest.

Through the principle of translating and spreading through Chinese whispers, as the starting point, I tried to locate the questions or situations where this process could be visible and applicable, in the first place. The book is here observed as a concept of reading, writing, knowledge, and what are the implications and roles of that concept today, where the medium of the book becomes elastic to fit anything that could be observed as a reading and writing space. By that I don't claim that the medium of the book is not important, far from that. It is more that these questions are equally relevant when dealing with the topic of books. With a specific project, it is important to concentrate on either the book as medium, or book as concept, to be able to deal with the topic adequately.

These are some of the uses I have as examples, or sketches of examples:

#### nu.1

A possible practical Dadaist solution could be a Firefox add-on using the principle of a screensaver: after a while of not using the content of a tab (not reading nor writing), it translates the content of a webpage to a language and back to English. So after 10 minutes it would be translated once, after 20 minutes twice, after 30 minutes 3 times, every time taking different languages as input. A small reflection on how simultaneous, constant, surface reading causes disparate

fragments and general confusion.

## main topics:

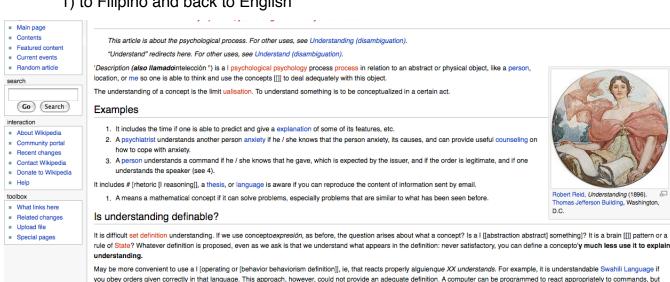
- -over information noise, productivity
- -the process of gradual change-Chinese whispers-communication-after a certain period of simultaneous reading, we are not sure where we started from
- -procrastination, attention deficit disorder
- -authenticity of sources
- -untraceable, non verifiable information(does the non verifiable information cause add or vice versa?)

These are the screenshots of how the content would change over time:

## 0) the regular Wikipedia page on Understanding



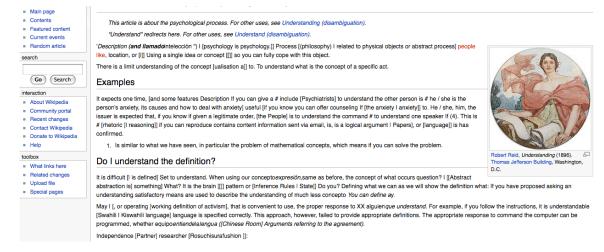
### 1) to Filipino and back to English



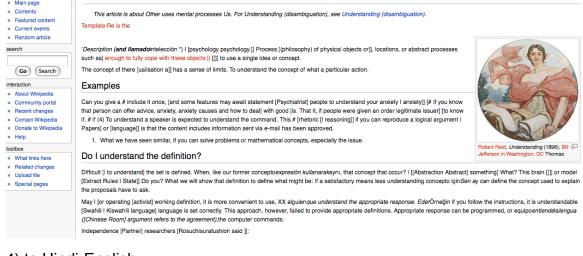
### 2) to Japanese-English

According to the independent Partners researcher Rostislav sion :

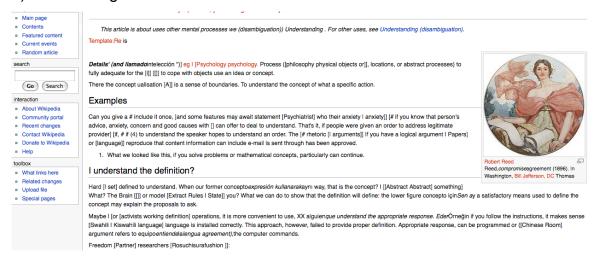
there is no agreement on whether or not the equipoentiendelalengua (see Chinese Room argument).



## to Turkish-English



### 4) to Hindi-English



#### nu.2

A more Oulipian solution would be a database with unstandardized personal translations, a collection of unofficial and non-existing versions of texts, as in well known texts, literature. The database would be possible to navigate through keywords, though the growth of the database would be conditioned by the growth of multiple versions of the same text(s). In its multiplicity, a poem would be equally relevant in one version as the next.

## Main topics:

- -(re)interpretation
- -original vs. copy

-standardized (official) vs. unstandardized (unofficial)

nu.3

Taking the example of the Euroshopper chocolate (also could be any

other type of product), and policies of the market, the choice of languages is a

choice of "unnatural" or natural coalitions, depending on how one perceives it.

(image 5, the map of EUroshoper countries)

by making alternative packages of the chocolate, with only languages

that are not present, one could give another view to a one sided picture, for

example, in the case of the Euroshopper:

1) questions on EU marginal countries, countries on the border of EU, or

the languages of immigrants in Euroshoper European countries in place of the

country originally on the package

2) combinations on another principle, showing the underlining strength

and normality of the coalitions of the market, how we are taught to consider a

construct out of economic, political or in general social situations as a given fact.

Combinations of language groups, as the Ugro-Finish chocolate, or the

Germanic chocolate, or use some other sort of metadata to group countries-

languages.

Main topics:

-language as a tool

-packaging as a communication (reading and writing) medium and space

-the one sided standardized system-representation

-production as production of knowledge, forming (un)awareness

-alternative translation as a strategy

image: choco 1, choco 2

Milk chocolate with hazelnuts. Ingredients sugar cocoa butter, whole milk powder, cocoa mass, hazelnuts 10%, whop youder, lactore, emulsifier sloya leethini, spoes Cocoaa aminimum of 30%. Altersy information: Comains nuts, lactore, cow's milk and sty May cochain traces of peanuts and other nuts, gluten and eggs.

NL Melk chocolade met hazelnoten. Ingredienten: suiker, cacaobater, volle melkpoeder, cacaomassa, hazelnoten 10%, weipoeder, lactose, emulgator (sola jentihnel, specerijen. Cacao: een minimum van 30%. Aleige-informatie Bevari noten, lactose, koemelk en soja. Kan sporen bevatten van pinda's en andere noten, gluten en eieren. PT chocolate ao lette com avelás. Ingredientes a gicar, mantelaja de caran, letre em po inegrafi, massa de cacia, avelas 10%, soro em pol lactose, emulsionante (Bectima de soja), especiarias. Carac um mínimo de 10%. Alergia informação: Contiem amendoins, factose, lette de voac e soja. Pode conter versigios de amendo e outros frutos secos, giúten e avos.

Samanar Melkichekiad med hassehotter.

Ingredienser societ kalacomne helmpilkspulver, kakacomass, hasseholter 10%, uasslepulver, lakaco, emulgeringsmedd (oplacien). Eyydder Salaco minst 30%. Allergi information innehalter notter, lakoo, kompilk och sala, kan innehálla spál av perdnötter och andra notter, gluten och agg.

Tillverkare Tyskland.

FIN. Manoukčia kansa hassebahlinat.
Amekset sokeni, kaskaomot üsyimatojuuhe, kaskaomassa, hassebahlinat 10%, herijauhe, listkoos, emdigonotione (ougiassenin, manuset rakabac valmata 10%.
Aflerija seetos. Saslitas pahlinat, lisktoosis, lehminemoto ja sosja Sastaria sälitas penisi marara pahkinnota ja muut pahkinnis (jutieenis) ja munat.
Valimistasis Siska.

Οκαιδιατο γαλιακτος με φουντούκια. Συστατικά ζάχιση, βούτυρο κακάο, πλήρες γάλο σε σκόνη, κακούριαδα, φυνιτούκια 10%, σκόνη σφού γάλιακτο, η λακότος γαλιακτιματιστητής (λεκεθλήνη σόγκας, μποιριγκά Κακάο: τουλάχιστου 30%. Αλλαγρία Πληροφορίες Περιεμία έγημούς καρπούς, λακτόδη, το γάλια σόγκας και το σγελαθινό. Μπορεί να περιέχει (κγη από φιστεία και αλλά πέροι καρπού, γλουτένη και τα συγια. Κατασκευαστής Γερμανία.

The languages on a 33 cent Euroshopper chocolate as packaged.

GB	PT	FIN
NL	S	GR

The empty package.

GB

( المجارة عليه بنفل الكراء بسكر ، ريدة الكاكر ، مسحوق مسل النوا .

العلي الكسل السع ، كلة الكاكل ، يشكل 7 10 روسموق مسل النوا .

الكاكل ، مستمل إلسانية فإلى العالمية الأمال الكاكل أن الله الأقلى 
( كم عليات المستملة ، يضوع على القرائق ويزيئة على الكاكل ويزيئة الماكل المسلم .

القر وقبل العمواء قد تحقق على الأو من القول الموسائم والكسراء .

الأخرى ، المشاوة رائيس التهم ، المتابع .

NLI

Milk Chocolate dengan hazelnut.
Bahari Sugar, cocoa butter, susu bubuk urtuh,
massa kaika, hazelmut 10%, bubuk whey, laktosa
emulsifier desitin kedelail, rempah-rempah.
Kaikao: Ninimal 30%.
Alergi informasi: Berisi kacang, laktosa dan prote

Alergi informasi: Berisi kacang, laktosa dan protein susu sapi dan kedelai. Mungkin berisi jejak kacang tanah dan kacang lainnya, perekat dan telur. Diproduksi di: Jerman. РТ Молочний шоколад з фундуком. Склад цукор, какао-насло, незбиране сухе молоко, какао-маса, фундук 10%, суха молочна сироватка, лактоза, емунататор (соевий пецитин), специ. Какао: миниум 30%. Алергін інформація:

Містить горюм, пактозу і білок коров'ячого молока та сої. Може містити сліди арахісу та інші горіки, глютен і яйця. Зроблено в: Німеччина.

S जब रोट के माब हुए चोफरेट, मानबी; चीजी, क्षेत्रीय मक्कार, मारा हुए गांवटर, बीको हज्जान, 10% अक्टोर, महुर गांवटर, वैक्टोन, मानसीवररको (सीमा वीमितिक), स्वास्टिट बनाने का मानाना, क्षेत्री: 20% जुनका, एक्टोरी आनकारी हैकुनकट, क्लेशके होता है, सान कहु प्रश्मीय, सांबार दें गुंचकी मा निमान, अन्य मानन, मत और अंदे होते हैं, में उत्सादित: प्रसंगी. Моско-неий шоколод с фундуком.
Состав: схарр, какао-масло, цельное сухое молоко,
какао-масса, фундук 10%, сухам молоным сыко-ротка, лектоза,
амультатор (сосвыя пецитик), стеции. Какао минимую 30%.
кактерия ин меруациям с Сиррем пореже, пактоза к монемую 30%.
кактерия ин меруациям с Сиррем пореже, пактоза к кауримосорк, клюковины и лицы.
Призоваритель грамочи.

CRI cokolate quimebbi me ligibi.
Perberesti: sheqer, gaipe kakao, ptuhur githe quimebbi, kakao he masé, ligihi 10%, kime pikhur sicrose, emusifier (soja lactihini, resta zákao; ni ptumium) prej 10%. Alergii Informacion: Permibai arra, lactose dhe quimebbi lispose sed hes yel, Mand te permibang giumne te siatrike dhe arra te tjera, gluten dhe vizet.
Produkesi: German de permipa giumne te

The languages that are placed instead of the languages given by the package are languages correlating to the numbers of most immigrants in the given countries, not speaking official languages.

England : Hindi Dutch: Indonesian Portugal: Ukrainian Sweden: (Iraq)- Arabic Finland: Russian Greece: Albanian

#### nu.4

A translation unrelated, but related to the topics of reading and writing today is an online word count, that counts the words one types in his browser in a day, and possibly makes a correlation, if the amount of words if it's the exact number of words from a book, or a correlation between different lengths of text (for example: one 70 page book = 160 poems = 30 articles = 12 insurance policies= 1/20 of a phonebook).

So when a person would reach a certain number of words the same as a book from a database of texts, they would have the information of the book, poem, story or washing machine manual they wrote the same amount of words to. Is it a question of quality vs. quantity or a shift in perception? Is compulsive typing a necessity or need? Or does one stimulate the other?

### Main topics:

- -writing vs. reading
- -translating data into (")facts(")
- -referential systems
- -(online) everyday production of content