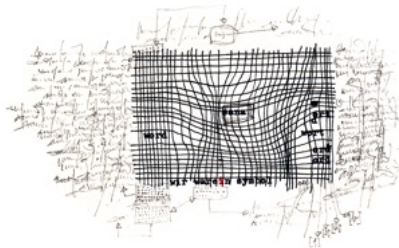


TRANSLANGUAGING IN ASEMIC WRITING: A METRIC SPACE APPROACH

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We are now in an age where we are spending more time than ever before pointing up the intrinsic complexities of translations but we have less and less time to make that complexity a textual reality.⁴

⁴Cronin, M., *Translation as globalization*, London and New York, Routledge, 2003, p. 121.

intro

metric / topological space

semiotic environment

language-induced
manifolds

code-switching

translanguaging

asemic writing

conclusions



- ▶ text / [not only a matter of] content / forms $\longleftrightarrow$ relations
- ▶ signification activated by objects devoid of meaning in themselves
- ▶ metric space:

set of elements [points] and a notion of distance [metric function] between them

- ▶ Hamming: $d_H(x, y)$ number of positions at which corresponding symbols in strings x and y of the same length do not match / minimum number of errors while copying / transcoding
example: $d_H(\text{I}\underline{\text{O}}\text{I}\text{O}\text{I}, \text{I}\underline{\text{H}}\text{I}\text{O}\text{I}) = 1$
- ▶ x, y binary to decimal $\longrightarrow 29 - 21 = 8$

- A, B : matrices of alphabetic signs

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} f & r & i & e & n & d \\ f & r & e & u & n & d \\ f & & i & e & n & d \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} r & f & i & e & d & n \\ f & r & e & u & d & n \\ f & & i & & r & d \end{bmatrix}$$

- metric schemes:

$A_1 \text{ eng} \leftrightarrow \text{ger } A_2$

$$d_H(A_1, A_2) = 2$$

$A_1 \text{ eng} \not\leftrightarrow \text{ger } A_3$

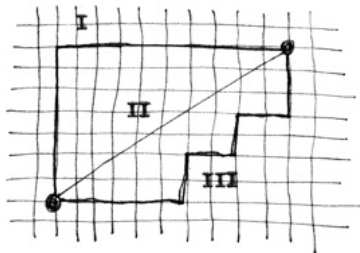
$$d_H(A_1, A_3) = 1$$

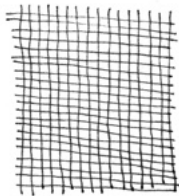
fiend — *enemy*

$A_1 \text{ eng} \equiv \text{eng } A_3$

- B lacks the basic connective structure of a language
- topological space: notion of closeness / properties involving union and intersection of sets
- $\{f, i, e, n, d\} \subset \{f, r, i, e, n, d\}$: *in a friend, a foe hides*.

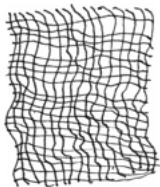
- ▶ lines: existence / possibility of relational structure between meaningless signs [dots]
- ▶ text consistency: connections between dots
- ▶ connections: rules determined by genre of writing / language
- ▶ grid: implicit layer to which the 'reader' refers / not univocal / influenced by language intersection / social environment
- ▶ relational grid $\longleftrightarrow$ relational dialectic / mutable context $\longrightarrow$ not a set of postulates





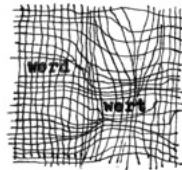
language

[1]



translanguaging

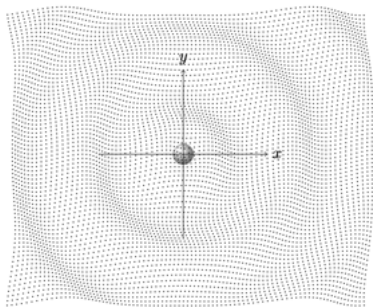
[2]



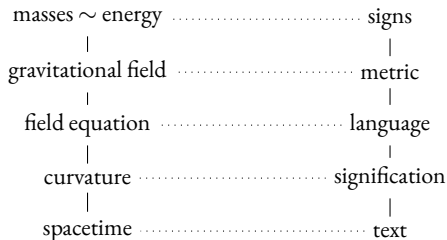
code-switching

[3]

- ▶ [1] roughly regular grid / single language layer
- ▶ [2] straight lines replaced by curved ones / mixed-line grid pattern → originally multi-language metric
- ▶ [3] local deformation of existing metric / [reversible] deformation of the dynamic grid of underlying idiolect
- ▶ code-switching deformation belongs to text / translanguaging grid to individual idiolect



Masses and energy generate a gravitational field that warps the fabric of spacetime around them. Einstein's field equations relate the distribution of matter and energy to the induced curvature. The more massive an object is, the greater its gravitational influence, and consequently, the more pronounced the curvature of spacetime around it. This affects the motion of objects, causing them to follow curved paths.



Signs generate a metric that warps the fabric of text around them. Language relates the distribution of signs to the induced signification. The more signifying a sign is, the greater its metric influence, and consequently, the more pronounced the signification of the text around it. This affects the motion of signs, causing them to follow curved paths.

- ▶ code-switching emphasizes the analysis of forms aside from social roots
- ▶ at the signifier levels much like measurement tools [signifier machines]
- ▶ multiple-language page → noisy interpretation process [simultaneous translation / other associations]
- ▶ single-language perspective more or less unconsciously adopted
- ▶ gaps between languages / intrinsic dualism modify the signification process
- ▶ *simulated annealing*: noise reshuffles connections [language conventions] → system [text] surpasses the minimum → further configurations [of signification] explored

- ▶ text through a single-language lens:
- ▶ unknown languages → optical aberrations
- ▶ not translated / untranslatable → not a missing piece behind pixelated areas
- ▶ out-of-focus parts: insisted-upon / never accomplished sense of completeness
- ▶ exclusion principle / piecewise-defined metric space
- ▶ bottom of the page: prose-like space dynamically / organically linked to the page
- ▶ contrapuntal experience / spectral analysis of noise when multiple languages intertwine

der wange der nacht:

stjörubálar
vörnablaa

withes & trees: blaze
átt
an air de gravity

flowers - flowers
flowers flow

one died of fever
one died forever
farther from Father
who could barely tell
one from the other

ein leichten fieber
ein leichten fieber

ein the years to come
may we be warned
by the fresh flowers of dawn,
springing from the eyes of the dead,
whose glances have long since withdrawn
in a wreath of thorns, now
that their limbs are in bloom

zwei abendblauen
the winter essence:
in einem gewitter

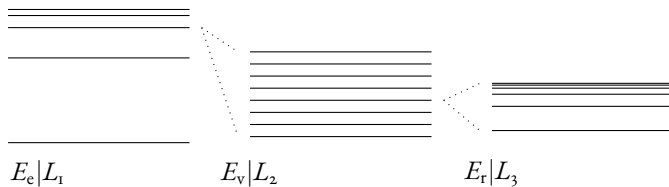
trinken die vögel die augen
die augen, die die tränen aufpickern

sie singen, sie sehen den winter,
der vor sich hin schaut
weil die blauen so weit sind

90 the cheek of the night 91 constellations 92 thermal chaos 93 trees with white-back 94 with 95 an air of gravity 96 flowers - rivers 97 a light fever 98 two evening flowers 99 in a thunderstorm 100 the birds drink the eyes 101 the eyes picking the tears 102 they sing, they see the winter 103 that stares straight ahead 104 for the trees are so far

EIS (LN 2022), based on the recordings I made in 2010 of an Icelandic glacier shrinking and shifting, using a set of contact microphones.

- ▶ languages interfere from the outset
- ▶ not a translation from the original / not the final balance after the moment of writing
- ▶ trajectories oriented by attractors of meaning beyond individual languages
- ▶ author's linguistic heritage $\longrightarrow$ a single linguistic structure
- ▶ fusion of multiple languages (L_1, L_2, L_3) $\longrightarrow$ additional levels of detail
- ▶ energy level structure molecule (multiple atoms) *vs* single atom



- ▶ broader multilayeredness of excitation schemes
- ▶ atoms $\longrightarrow$ closed systems / molecules $\longrightarrow$ open systems

- ▶ common perception → three distinct categories: past, present, future
- ▶ simultaneity / contemporaneity: equivalent in essence / different in forms across languages
- ▶ Einstein's relativity: time is part of the geometry of the universe

geometry not merely a mathematical structure / not established purely on mathematical assertions

languages not truly linguistic entities / their demarcations established on non-linguistic bases

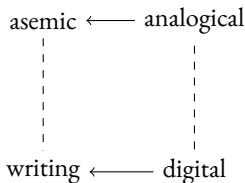
- ▶ multilingual individuals → linguistic entity shaped by the fusion of multiple languages
- ▶ additional levels of detail of signification available

- ▶ potential form of translanguaging: codified languages / archetypal system of signs
- ▶ pre-linguistic condition of imitative drawing *vs* encoded readable handwriting
- ▶ readable handwriting: a form of conditioning for an unconscious heritage of signs
- ▶ unstoppable multiplier of noisy variants / sabotage of an initial message
- ▶ meaning germination involves conscious / unconscious processes
- ▶ outcome $\longleftrightarrow$ 'reader' / quantum measurements $\longleftrightarrow$ experimental setup
- ▶ multiple readership $\longleftrightarrow$ multiple authorship

Does it make sense to think of a content actually accessed in or through the text, or should we envisage that signification is released from a range of possibilities while the text is accessed? If the latter is correct, *what* gets transformed into a content?

- ▶ natural phenomena $\longrightarrow$ energy exchanges
- ▶ accessing a text $\longrightarrow$ increase / release of signified
- ▶ process of measuring $\longleftrightarrow$ process of signification

- ▶ asemic patterns $\longrightarrow$ no longer quantizable compounds of elementary units
- ▶ no fixed set of symbols $\longrightarrow$ what metric space?
- ▶ analogical way *vs* alphabetic / digital system?



- ▶ mathematical metric space $\longleftrightarrow$ asemic page / set of signifiers whose signified is irrelevant in order to establish a relationship between them
- ▶ the whole text as a net of potentially interconnected nodes
- ▶ each reader employs a 'metric' / perception of 'nearness'
- ▶ arbitrary boundary between signs
- ▶ essence | ex-sense¹

¹*ex-* is a prefix that stands for *out, out of, from*.

- ▶ languages $\longleftrightarrow$ [approximately] interchangeable relational schemes of modes and forms
- ▶ principles / symmetries / intrinsic properties lie behind [beyond] the description adopted

Universe $\longrightarrow$ non-Euclidean, except for
small portions in a first approximation /
spacetime $\longrightarrow$ single entity

languages $\longrightarrow$ local variants of deeper
structures / translanguaging $\longrightarrow$ a uni-
fied process

- ▶ perception of the world $\longrightarrow$ collection of data reorganized into signs
- ▶ competing structures $\longrightarrow$ further synthesis