

TRANSLATION FOR THE DRAMATURG

A Three Sisters Case Study



Audience & Goals

- Undergraduate/Graduate Audience
- At the end of this course, students will be able to:
 - analyze the meaning of a single dramatic text via the accumulated analysis of several translations.
 - evaluate the appropriateness of a given translation for a contemporary stage production.

Dramaturgical File Components

- World of the Play Analysis
- World of the Play Research
- Historical Context
- Imagery

World of the Play Analysis

James Thomas

- Conclusions reached after careful analysis of the “Given Circumstances” **ONLY FOUND** in the text:
 - Time
 - Place
 - Society
 - Economics
 - Politics & Law
 - Spirituality
 - Learning & the Arts

World of the Play Research

- Outside research related to the “Given Circumstances” mentioned in the text.
- Pictorial Glossary/Encyclopedia of references and allusions in the text, including correct pronunciation of non-English terms.
- Useful for directors, actors, and designers to “fill in the blanks” in the text.

Historical Context Research

- Information on the playwright.
- Historical conditions under which the play was written and first produced.
- Any political, theoretical, cultural, or social issues the text addresses in an effort to understand why the play was important in its own time (and why it may possibly be relevant today).

Imagery

- Visual, Verbal, and Aural imagery that can feed, complement, and challenge the work of the artists on the project.
- Explores the literal and the conceptual, the historically accurate and the anachronistic
- Paintings, sculptures, photographs, film, music, poetry, quotes, and beyond!

Figuring the Translator

Carol Maier

- What materials can we gather to uncover the figure of the translator?
 - Paratexts
 - Criticism
 - Critical Essays
 - Personal Correspondence
 - Interviews
 - Creative Work/Other Translations
 - Blogs/Websites/Podcasts

Assessment

- Students will use the dramaturgical file to bring 2-3 translations into conversation with one another and determine which is the most appropriate text to use for their stage production (based on the “Why this play now?” question).
- Student Dramaturgical File Website: <http://thedumbwaiter.weebly.com>
- Sample Translator File Website: <http://translatorfile.weebly.com>