

TRNS 2000: Translation and Global Society

Short Essay #2

Due by Saturday, April 20, noon

When reading works in translation, we experience the work of the author and the translator at the same time. The subject matter, the overall meaning, the flow of the story or the movement of a poem as they are presented in the translation are still mostly the work of the original writer. At the same time, translators are crucially involved in **recreating** the original **voice of the original writer**. As we discussed in class, narrative voice in a literary work is made of many elements, including **diction (word choice)**, **sentence structure (syntax and grammar)**, the **flow**, the **imagery**, the **pattern of repetitions, sounds, and rhythms**. We pay attention to these bold-faced characteristics, if we want to appreciate what the translator must have done, the challenges they must have encountered, and the strategies they might have followed. Any reader in English can focus on these, without having to learn the original language.

- Choose TWO sections in Ferit Edgu's *Wounded Age and Eastern Tales*.
- Each section should be at least two or three pages long.
- Read them closely with an eye to identifying the bold faced elements listed above.
- Write an essay (4-5 pp; double-spaced, typed), to discuss how the translator must have translated Ferit Edgu's narrative voice, by paying close attention to the bold-faced elements identified above. What seem to be the most important elements of Edgu's voice in these texts that the translator attempted to recreate? What challenges the translator might have encountered, and what strategies he appears to have devised to address those challenges?

Please note that, as the translator of this book, I am not expecting you to identify correctly what I did or didn't do. Don't worry about second-guessing me. Even I cannot always second guess myself 😊 Your essay should reflect your individual engagement with the language of the book, but also in light of our discussions about literary translation—how it is made, and how it asks to be read.