


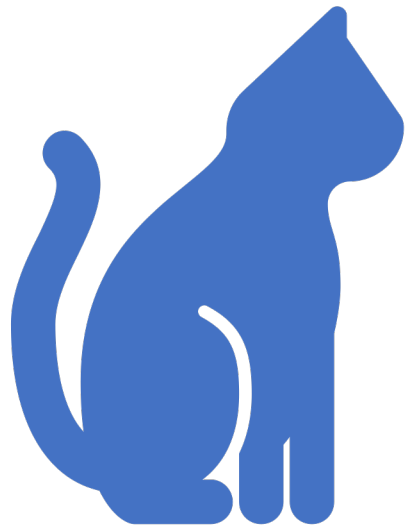
A large orange shape on the left side of the slide, consisting of a rectangle with a quarter-circle cutout on its right side.

## Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the traditional custodians of this country and that I live and work on Noongar Boodjar.

I pay our respects to elders past and present, and acknowledge their wisdom and advice in my teaching and cultural knowledge activities.

A series of four yellow curved lines in the bottom right corner, arranged to form a larger, abstract curved shape.



## Cats and Treasures: Translanguaging in Poetry from K/now/here?

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Alternative Title:  
Poetry and  
Zozobra:  
Can we do  
something about  
the uneasiness?



# Abstract:

In this paper, I discuss translanguaging, an approach that underpins my poems “Siamese Cats” and “National Treasures Coming Home”.

Translanguaging is a term used by educationalists and social linguists to describe the practice where one uses all facets of their linguistic abilities to communicate and reject the idea of a pure language.

“Knowhere” is a fictitious mining colony made from the head of a fallen Celestial being that appears in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. I argue that through translanguaging, so-called ‘hybridized’ Australian writers can create a more concretised space where they can weave together fragmented identities.

# Outline

- ❑ Translanguaging

- ❑ Positionality

- ❑ Zozobra?

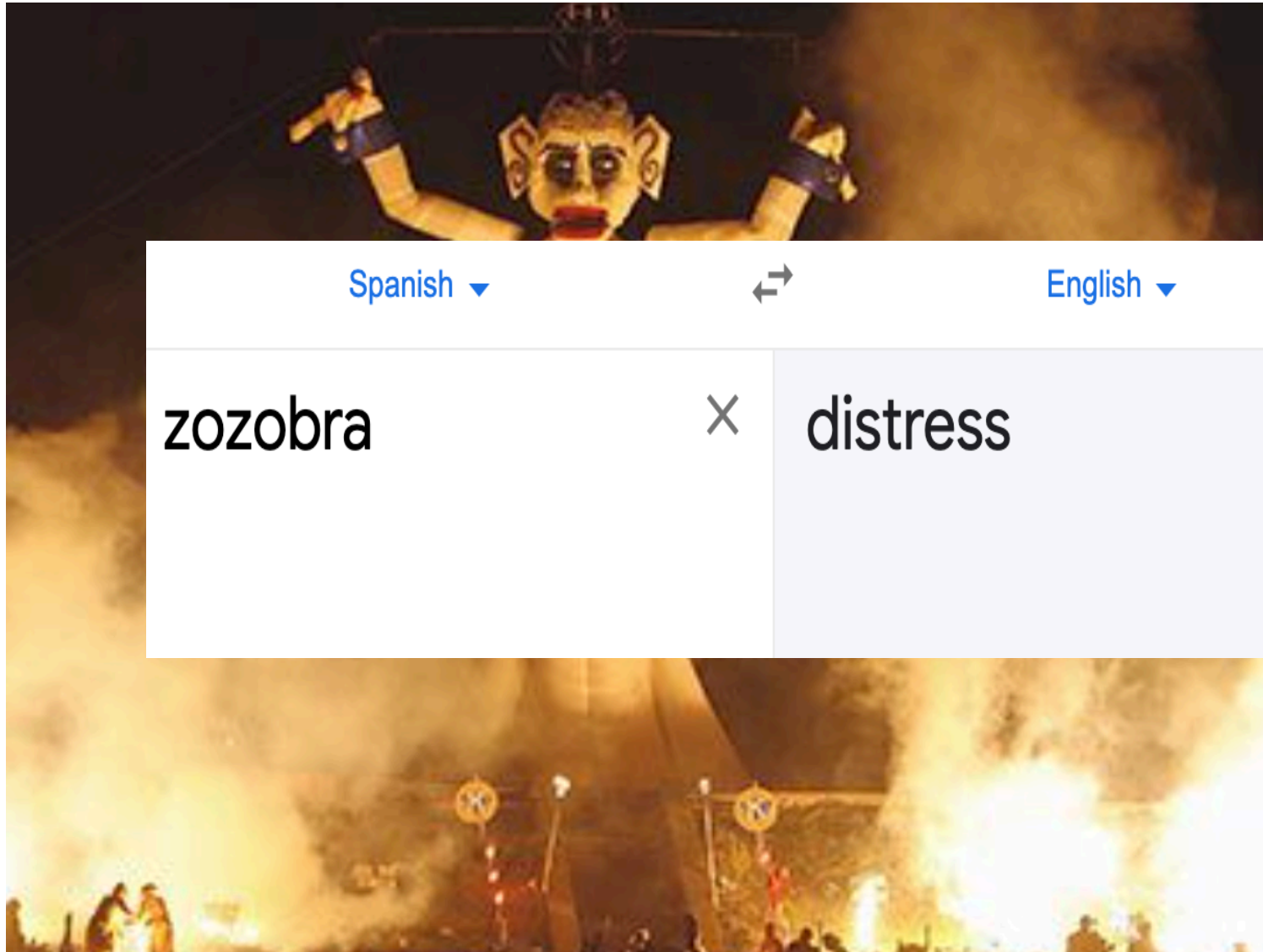
- ❑ Knowhere?

  - K-No- Where or K-Now-Here?

- ❑ Cats and Treasures

# Translanguaging

- Term used in education.
- ‘Trawsieithu’ — coined by Cen Williams 1980s (Welsh)
- Theories developed in Anglophone contexts – e.g. UK, USA,
- The use of a speaker’s full linguistic abilities and “without regard for watchful adherences to the socially and political defined boundaries of named (and usually national and state) languages” (Otheguy, Garcia and Reid 2015, 283)
- Bilinguals have ONLY **one semiotic system** that includes “various lexical, morphological, and grammatical **linguistic features** , in addition to **social practices** and features individuals “embody (e.g., their gestures, their posture), as well as **those outside of themselves** which through use become part of their bodily memory (e.g., **computer technology**)” (Vogel and Garcia 2017, 6)



# zozobra

- Emilio Uranga – “Essay on the Ontology of the Mexican” (1951), *Analysis of Mexican Being* (1952)
- An ungroundedness that seeks to resolve itself into something, and in doing so becomes a “non-being” (Vargas 2020)
- “A mode of being that oscillates between two possibilities...without knowing which one of those to depend on...indiscriminately dismissing one extreme in the favour of the other. In this to and fro the soul suffers, it feels torn and wounded’ (Gallagos 2020).



Solutions beyond subordination? Create something new? Accept the wound will always at best be a scab?

**WHAT ROLE CAN ART PLAY IN RESOLVING  
THIS SENSE OF BEING?**



**Flerken**





Search

↑ 11 ↓

Burning Question: what language do they speak in GotG?

↑ 11 ↓

Posted by u/RibbonsTheThird Iron man (Mark I) 4 years ago

## Burning Question: what language do they speak in GotG?

I know that this borders on overthinking comic book movies, but it's something that nags at me constantly. As far as we're concerned, the characters in Guardians of the Galaxy speak English. But like... they can't be, right? That doesn't make any sense. This new trailer shows Peter Quill wearing a shirt with what looks like alien writing on it, so signs point to no, but at the same time there's a sign in English on the ship about only wearing spacesuits in case of emergency (or for fun). I'm willing to accept that that's mostly for our benefit, but it raises a larger question of how the Avengers and the Guardians are going to communicate with each other when they inevitably meet up. They've skirted this issue with Thor and the other Asgardians, who seem to speak perfect English despite the fact that they're gods/aliens/whatever who spent most of their time on Earth in Norway. Whether English is their first language, somehow, or they just speak many different languages, is never explained. But I really want to know! I would really love to see them address this in some way.

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/marvelstudios/comments/58durm/burning\\_question\\_what\\_language\\_do\\_they\\_speak\\_in/](https://www.reddit.com/r/marvelstudios/comments/58durm/burning_question_what_language_do_they_speak_in/)

<https://www.cinemablend.com/news/1687770/does-star-lord-still-speak-english-heres-what-james-gunn-says>

## NEWS

## Does Star-Lord Still Speak English? Here's What James Gunn Says

CONNER SCHWERDTFEGER | PUBLISHED: AUG. 2. 2017 2:50 PM



Living among aliens comes with a wide array of logistical problems, not the least of which is the issue of language barriers. Even if they can comprehend what you're saying, you may still encounter someone who can't even understand metaphors. With that in mind, one *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* fan asked James Gunn to clarify if **Star-Lord** uses a translator to convert the franchise's many alien tongues to English,

# Intralingual translanguaging

- Vernacular and Literary
- Slang and Institutional
- Meme language

Polyglotta Politica (Publ. in Domokos 2013: 167)	Language Index	Transl. by the author
... <i>Soupe, Madame?</i> <i>Fish for you, Sir?</i> <i>Mehr Wein!</i> <i>Nous sommes une compagnie très sociable</i> <i>Hey you, où est mon consommé?</i>	French English German French English, French	... Soup, Madame? Fish for you, Sir? More wine! We are a very sociable company Hey you, where is my consommé?

4

# Intralingual Translanguaging

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<i>Bitte nur keine Politik</i> <i>The Muslims, of course the Mohammedans</i> <i>Ahti herää, Neptuneus nousee</i> <i>Ein Kreuzzug zieht durch Εύρώπη</i> <i>Serviette als Fahne</i> <i>Sjöhästar ur havets djup, tilapia på tallriken</i> <i>Она ужасна</i> <i>Avledningsmanöver:</i> <i>Madame, do you like Thai food?</i> <i>Pöytäliinan kastiketahra kasvaa</i> <i>Kastike aaltoilee между картофуме</i> <i>Es gibt kein Zurück.</i>	German English Finnish German, Greek German Swedish Russian Swedish English Finnish Finnish, Bulgarian German	Please only no politics The Muslims, of course the Mohammedans Ahti wakes up, Neptune rises A crusade marches through Europe Napkin as flag Seahorses from ocean depths, tilapia on the plate She's terrible Diversion manœuvre: Madame, do you like Thai food? The stain on the tablecloth grows Sauce moving like waves between potatoes There is no return.
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(Domokos 2013, 4-5)

# How does an illiterate write poetry?

- **one semiotic system** that includes “various lexical, morphological, and grammatical **linguistic features** , in addition to **social practices** and features individuals “embody (e.g., their gestures, their posture), as well as **those outside of themselves** which through use become part of their bodily memory (e.g., **computer technology**)” (Vogel and Garcia 2017, 6)



# How does an illiterate write poetry?

- Google translate
- Random websites
- New iPhone translation app
- Help from friends and parents
- Voice recognition software
- 5 months of Chinese Second Languages classes
- Mother tongue
- Romanised input systems – e.g. Pin Yin



## SIAMESE CAT

For 妙儿

a bamboo ceiling.  
sits beneath the glass one  
change your facade for monolingual tongues  
green bamboo  
grows into  
clicketty clack, clicketty clack, clicketty clack  
flooring.

your face says country stays with everyone  
on this terrain.

if you were in the east, would you surface or follow him?

猫功 mao gong 贸工.  
you look to highlight these  
fresh wet markets, your translucent skin,  
the remote lush valleys.

Juxtapositions

it's beautiful for the most part.  
it's pretty, weird, remote  
and extremely you.

diverse within provinces of pine  
landscapes of mountainous mountains

but would you lead him wherever you go and  
mark stiletto dents on the soft hard floor?

you say that I'm not a patriot  
and *that* is always a moral dilemma.

clicketty clack, clicketty clack, clicketty clack  
above me.

---

猫功 maaung (Cantonese) – 'cat' kongfu [a style of martial arts]

贸工 mào gong (Mandarin) – trade worker

Chinese ▾

↔

English ▾

gongfu

×

effort

Gōngfū

Translating 功夫 UNDO

🔊

🎤

🔊

📋

Translations of 功夫

11:11

4G

Chinese

↔

English

猫功

×

Mao Gong

➔

夫 的 大法 残 是 了 大

q w e r t y u i o p

a s d f g h j k l

⌵ z x c v b n m ⌵

123 😊 空格 前往

🌐

🎤

11:11

4G

Chinese

↔

English

猫工

×

Cat worker

➔

的 单 店 皂 和 位 你好

q w e r t y u i o p

a s d f g h j k l

⌵ z x c v b n m ⌵

123 😊 空格 前往

🌐

🎤

11:12

4G

Chinese

↔

English

贸工

×

Trade and Industry

➔

部长

q w e r t y u i o p

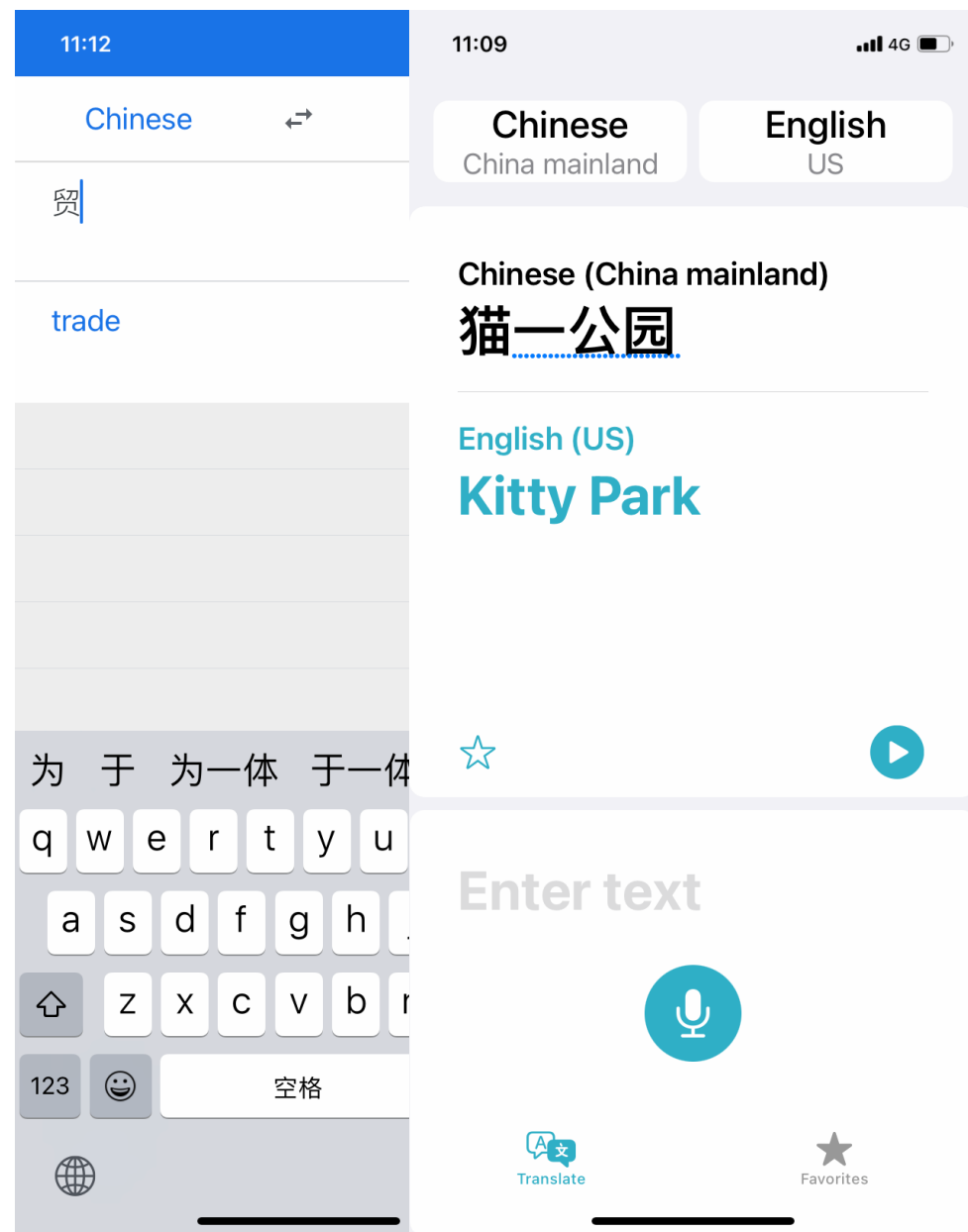
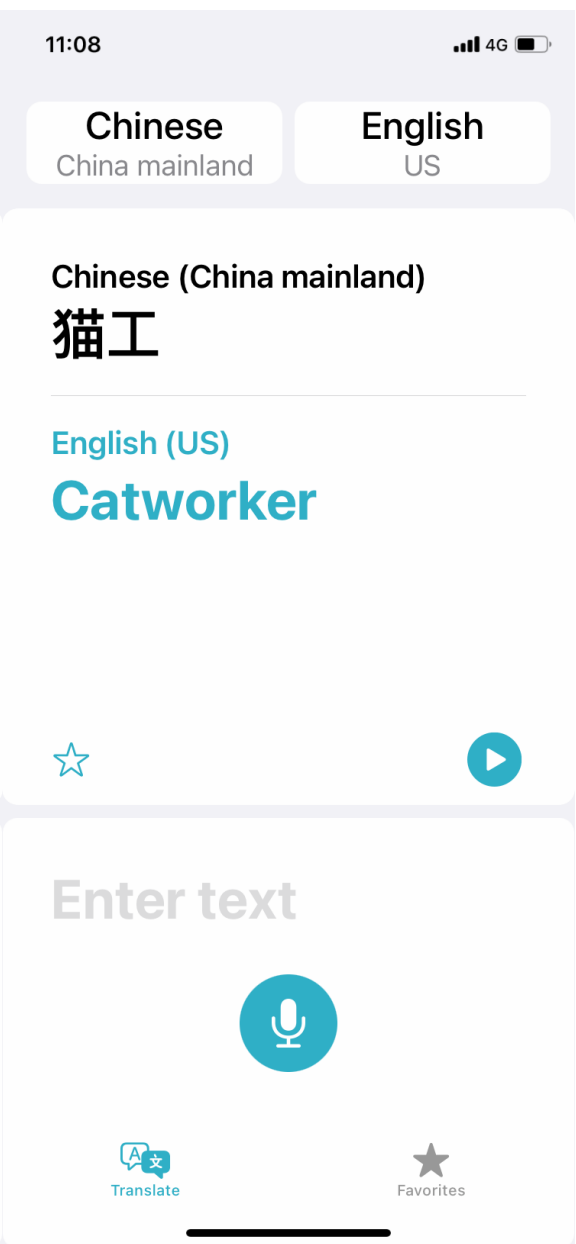
a s d f g h j k l

⌵ z x c v b n m ⌵

123 😊 空格 前往

🌐

🎤



# National Treasures Coming Home: Woman/Slave

- National Treasures Coming Home
- 英女王 Queen of England

• The Queen = ying nu wang

1 英女王 2 鹰女王 3 应 4 赢 5 英 6 硬 7 影

Chinese ↔ English

奴  
Nú

奴才 奴僕

slave

Finding nu

1 奴 2 怒 3 努 4 弩 5 孥 6 弩 7 齏

- Click to add text

English ↔ Chinese (Simplified)

female

'fē, māi

female female dog females

female male

女  
Nǚ

English ▼

↔

Chinese (Simplified) ▼

woman  
'wʊmən

×

女人  
Nǚrén

English ▼

↔

Chinese (Simplified) ▼

Queen of  
England

×

英国女王  
Yīngguó nǚwáng

Chinese (Simplified) ▼

↔

English ▼

英|女王  
Yīng nǚwáng

×

Queen of England

# “Say it in Cantonese...”

- 北京够 Beijing Gou – Pekinese

• bei jing

1 北京 2 北京市 3 北境 4 背景 5 贝京 6 背静

• 北京gou

1 够 2 狗 3 🐶 4 钩 5 购 6 沟 7 勾 8 构 9 苟

11:134G11:144G11:144G11:154G

Chinese↔EnglishEnglish↔Chinese (SimpEnglish↔Chinese (SimpEnglish↔Chinese (Simpl...

北京狗×peking dogpeking canine>beijing dog×

Pekingese→北京人北京犬←北京狗→

Did you mean  
pekingese

儿仔的子粮在了

qwertuiopqwertyuiopqwertyuiopqwertyuiop  
asdfghjklasdfghjklasdfghjklasdfghjkl  
⌵zxcvbnm⌵zxcvbnm⌵zxcvbnm⌵zxcvbnm⌵  
123😊空格前往123😊spacego123😊spacego123😊spacego  
🌐🎤🌐🌐🎤🌐🌐🎤



# NATIONAL TREASURES COMING HOME

My boss, the head nurse, says she has a collection of Ming  
dynasty crockery,

Qing dynasty snuff bottles and  
a Shang 代 bronze tripod vase  
(always filled with fresh pomegranates)  
looted by her ancestors or  
bought at Sotheby's  
for all the tea in China.  
'I'm the poor cousin, the others got more  
Come for dinner and you'll see them all.'

I disliked her then, I dislike her now

But it is Queen Victoria I should 更 讨厌  
throw rotten eggs at  
or spray *Four Bandits* on the pedestal where  
she sits in the park at the end of Great George Street.  
'Looty' was her Pekingese,  
say it in Cantonese '北京狗!'

It is my boss, not Victoria, who wants me to eat beef stroganoff  
and polenta

off my ancestor's plates.  
sniff the potpourri she's placed  
in rhinoceros-shell-lined bottles  
translate the inked poems  
about ancient fish  
and explain why the toad has red eyes  
flared nose and only three legs

For dessert she will make a pavlova in her new Bosch oven  
with fresh cherries, seconds from local farms.

---

代 dài (Mandarin) – generation

更 讨厌 gèng tǎo yàn (Mandarin) – more disgusted

北京狗 bēi jīng gǒu (Cantonese) – Pekingese dog

I usually pay to admire stolen goods, encased in glass cabinets,  
national treasures and ancient clays I cannot afford to buy.  
I've seen the Egyptian treasures, excavated  
by the men who live in Downtown Abbey  
'Your Chinese mouth would not touch these Chinese treasures  
had we not salvaged history back to Portsmouth.  
Look at what happened to the Temple of Baalshamin  
the Giant Buddhas of Bamiyan!'

We have an understanding, she and I.

I order pens, paper, ink cartridges and pantry supplies, soaps,  
malted milk and chocolate biscuits  
for children who attend our geriatric clinic.  
I add two extra boxes of tampons  
'For the patients, of course'  
I nod when she says, 'People *should* pay for their health care.'  
Because she gives me hour-long lunch breaks  
and calls me good girl  
I say, 'I will come to dinner.'

I will see if Russian gravy tastes better on centuries-old porcelain plates  
patterned by cobalt and manganese  
and ingest the same trace elements as  
imperial court nobles who ate 菜 off the  
crockery, fresh out of the kiln.

But my cousin says that our people were peasants who woke early to pick grains  
of rice or maybe it was wheat with our hands,  
we were foreign to the Forbidden City.  
I ask him what I should wear to a meal with the descendants  
of drug dealers who poisoned a nation with opioids  
rendered it sick  
too yellow and diseased  
to walk in leafy green meadows  
when they could not cure their addiction to yum cha.

---

菜 cài (Mandarin) – dishes

He says, 'I will lend you my vest, cut from the uniform of a  
Song dynasty eunuch.

It does not fit me but it will indeed fit you.'

Perhaps

Perhaps

Perhaps.

# Translanguaging and Publishers

- “Interlingual and interlingual translanguaging are censored by most editors. In many cases fictional figures will speak a special language in the original manuscript – a language that is fated to be transposed into the libterary language of the actual market where the book will be sold” –Domokos 2013, 5)
- Can translanguaging work in prose?



**Knowhere**  
**K/no/where**  
**K/now/here**  
**Know/here**

# Concluding thoughts?

- Mining the material – nerves, cells, tissue
- English – Lingua Franca?
- Can a multicultural country be monolingual?
- Is the shift from a dualist to monist linguistic landscape a solution to the zozobra?
- “Individuals who have projected a world, and of those constructions upon finding them in the imagination are thrown into an incurable uneasiness...of finding the human edifice built on contemptible grounds” (Uranga 1951).

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