Producing a Translation

The Four-Stage Translation

This actually consists of five stages, and can be shown in four columns as follows:

- **Stage 1:** In the first column, write out the text to be translated in the original language.
- **Stage 2:** Transliterate the original text into the thought-patterns of the target language, but keep the words of the original language. In this column you identify cultural and semantic differences between the two languages.
- **Stage 3:** Transpose the words of the transliteration into the word-order of the target language, but keep the words of the original language. In this column you identify the structural differences between the two languages.
  - Where a phrase in the original language is represented by a single word in the new language, use hyphens to link the original-language words together.
  - Where a single word in the original language is represented by a phrase in the target language, put a plus sign between the components of the original word. For example, "inhumane" may be represented by two words in the new language, one meaning "sympathetic" and the other "the opposite of"; you can represent this in the transposition as "sympathetic+reverse" or "sympathetic+reverse [inhumane]".
- **Stage 4:** Translate the transposition into the new language.
- **Stage 5:** Explain your choices. You do not need to explain everything, but you may wish to highlight key details which differentiate your language from other languages.

An example of the four-stage translation would be:

Original	Transliteration	Transposition	Translation
Welcome[1,2] to Anarres.	It may be said by the Solidarity to the unknown person: your[3] visit to Anarres is noted.	An-unknown-thing may-be-said-by to-the-unknown-person the-Solidarity: the-visit to-Anarres of-you is-noticed-by us.	TRul Feshyme astiTRuz aNarres: aValad astiNarres agreSeln GVete KSoti[4].

[1] Order forms like "welcome" are not available in Pravic; it must be reformulated as a statement.

[2] "Welcome" is a mark of deference; it is not appropriate on Anarres, where everyone is equal. However, while individuals are not treated as noteworthy, they may do something which is noteworthy.

[3] There are no possessive pronouns in Pravic.

[4] There are five ways of saying we/us in Pravic. The form used here means "the sender and others, but not the receiver".

Notice how the translation of three words has involved 122 words to explain it. You may wish to take the notes out into an appendix, or put them into the report. Remember that the report and translation do not each stand alone, you can cross-refer between them.

The Three-Stage Translation

Where the target language has a similar logic to the original language, you may find that the original and transliteration columns are very similar. If this is the case, you can consider leaving out the transliteration column.

Where the target language has a similar word order to the original language, you may find that the transliteration and transposition columns are very similar. If this is the case, you can consider leaving out the transposition column.

The Two-Stage Translation

There should be no such thing as a Two-stage translation. Even cants such as Polari have their particular features. For example, "Bona ter vaada yer dolly old eke" represents "How-nice to see your [dolly old=attractive/familiar?] face"; "strillers bona" represents "piano grand" or grand piano; and, in the Polari Bible, "nishta lucoddy" (not the-body) is used to represent "soul". If your language shows few differences between the original, transliteration and translation columns, you may need to revisit the culture, lexis and grammar of your language.

Four-column translation: English to Mandubza

Original	Transliteration	Transposition	Translation
When on board H.M.S. 'Beagle,' as naturalist, I was much struck with certain facts in the distribution of the inhabitants of South America, and in the geological relations of the present to the past inhabitants of that continent.	I was a naturalist	I be-PAST-incomplete naturalist	a mo'ad'u nad'mana
	And	and	ub
	I was on-board HMS Beagle.	I [be-on-a-boat]-PAST boat Beagle	a dego'ad bima Bigo .
	I had some ideas-about the location	I have-PAST [ideas about]-some place	A vo'ad iga'ed zhana
	of people	Person-all-[owns-location]	mada'edi'av
	in South America,	[South America]-[contains-people]	Zozameniga'azh,
	And	and	ub
	I had some ideas-about the geology.	I have-PAST [ideas-about]-some geology	a vo'ad iga'ed thab'zan'mana .
	Did it make-the-same	QUESTION it [make-the-same]-PAST	Zhi, e dano'ad
	now-people	Person-all	mada'edi
	And then-people?	Person-all-PAST-and	mada'edi'adub ?

Three-column translation: English to Pravic

The Dispossessed	Pravlish *(Combined Transliteration and Transposition)*	Pravic
There was a wall.	*A-wall was the-unknown-thing.*	SHym Pona aTRul.
It did not look important.	*The-wall was-not-important-to people.*	aSHym maDissiga Voki.
It was built of uncut rocks roughly mortared.	*The-known-thing was-built with-rocks not-shaped, with-mortar rough.*	aTRum KSyma greBalagi maKVagidy, greDorz TRugy.
An adult could look right over it, and even a child could climb it.	*The-known-thing be-over-seen-by-could an-adult, and the-known-thing climb-by-could anti-strongly a-child.*	aTRum tiGRygyme Kivok, Tyg aTRum Milneryme miSTerretu CHavok.
Where it crossed the roadway, instead of having a gate it degenerated into mere geometry, a line, an idea of boundary.	*The-road was-crossed-by without-a-gate the-wall.* *But the-wall was-replaced-by a-line; the-wall was-replaced-by an-idea.*	aGVarrop TRuda groFelig aSHym. Sed aSHym GRapaga STen; aSHym GRapaga Vengyr.
But the idea was real.	*But a-reality was-made-by the-idea.*	Sed Nepag KSyma aVengyr.
It was important.	*The-idea was-important-to people.*	aVengyr Dissiga Voki.