

Working group 4:

**European words of emotion:
structure, culture, and translation**

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Working group 4: European roots and words of emotion:

- deciding on a word list for every European language
(so far: French, Romanian, Portugese, Dutch, German)
- identification of word families
- etymological analysis
- historical analysis
- contemporary analysis
- contrastive analysis
(etymological relationships, semantical relationships)



Colour conference, Lisbon 2015

new working assignments (by September 2015):

- explore colours and emotions combined
(e. g. Ger. “rot vor Wut”, = very angry)

- basic emotions, basic colours:
 - fear, anger, disgust, happiness, joy, sadness, surprise
 - red, blue, yellow, green



Structure:

How can the article structure reflect all complex information that comes with words of emotions (and their connection to colours)?



Structure:

- define places in micro structure for such information
 - phrases and idioms

- give examples from corpus / sources

- set references / links to similar cases in other languages



Structure:

example: Ger. “rot” (= red)

- kings, knights, church (pope)
- love, lust
- revolutionary, Communist, Socialist

rot werden (= to blush)

grünes Licht geben (= to allow sth)

...



Culture:

- **What is culture?**
- **Should cultural differences / similarities be pointed out in a dictionary of European roots?**



Culture:

“[...] justified criticism [towards national characteristics] does not mean that we can altogether reject the concept of culture as a basic orientation. Despite their acknowledged heterogeneous, hybrid and open-ended nature, we still tend to refer to cultures as unified entities in practice.”

(Aleida Assmann, Introduction to Cultural Studies 2012: 13)



Culture:

“Cultural translation is [...] not a tangible process between languages or styles, but rather an intangible one between conflicting historical experiences as contexts for similar artifacts. The styles have converged, but the histories have not.”

(Gabriel Motzkin, “Memory and Cultural Translation”
in: Budick / Iser, The translatability of cultures 1996: 266)



Translation:

Dictionary of European roots – English?

Dictionary	Lemma				
	Angst f.	tapfer adj.	frech adj.	empfinden vb.	fühlen vb.
Duden Universalwörterbuch (New High German, 2006)	distress	1) fearless a) facing danger without fear b) com- posedly, restrained 2) proper (colloquial)	a)1 impudent b) perky, bold (impudent in a charming way)	a)2 to perceive (senses) b) to notice emotions c) to touch	1) to perceive by the senses or by touching 2) to feel emotionally 3) search by touching 4) to be aware of one's bodily/ emotional situation



Translation:

„Der Übersetzungsvorgang steht [...] vor allem vor der Aufgabe, einen Verständigungsprozess über die Unterschiede der eigenen und der fremden Welt in Gang zu bringen sowie über die Missverständnisse zwischen den verschiedenen Kulturräumen aufzuklären, in denen Menschen jeweils unterschiedliche Beziehungen zueinander pflegen.“

(Kremberg, Pelka, Schildt (Hgg.): Übersetzbarkeit zwischen den Kulturen 2008: 19f.)



Translation:

“Translating, first of all, means to initiate a process of understanding the differences between oneself and others, and resolve misunderstanding between different cultural areas in which people relate to one another in all kinds of ways.”



Translation:

How can information be displayed so that any speaker from any cultural background will be able to understand?

Is there an alternative to using English as a *lingua franca*?



Translation:

Yes!

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Translation:

- display all languages side by side

- give English glossary as an option
 - web: translating function when touching the respectable word or article with the cursor

 - book: English articles at the end of the dictionary or as a second volume



“[Comenius] believed that if the curtain of language and socialization was withdrawn, all distinctions of culture, language, religion, status, and gender would eventually disappear.”

(Aleida Assmann in: Budick / Iser 1996: 95f.)

... thank you!

