

Finding a Good Read

A column to help you find intriguing books

Ruth

Books translated into English

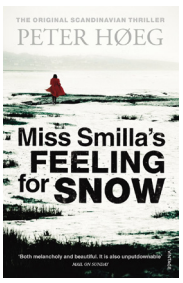
When translating a book, particularly a work of fiction, certain words, complex symbolism, and some idioms may not have a directly mappable English form. Translation then becomes a creative act of adaptation and cross-cultural communication rather than simply a passive act of copying. In shaping a narrative for global readers, translation may even hold political significance. Below are some great books that were translated from their original language for an English audience.

Changed titles

Even when titles are tweaked in translation, the translator intervening in an English-language reader's first impression of a book.



The title of *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata in the original Japanese is *Konbini Ningen*, which literally translates to Convenience Store Person/Human. Ginny Tapley Takemori's translation of the title specifies the protagonist as female, emphasising the gendered expectations placed on an unmarried 36-year-old woman working in a Tokyo convenience store.

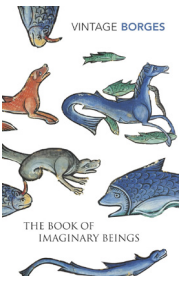


Smilla's Sense of Snow (Frøken Smillas fornemmelse for sne) by Danish author Peter Høeg, a 1992 thriller set in Copenhagen and Greenland, was translated into English in the US by Tiina Nunnally in 1993. Høeg was critical of how far Nunnally strayed from the original Danish, collaborating with his agent to produce a UK edition with an amended title, *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow*, giving the protagonist an old-fashioned title and swapping the more scientific noun 'sense' for a more emotional noun, 'feeling'. Controversially, Nunnally rejected the re-translation, and the translator of the UK edition is now listed under a fake name: F. David.

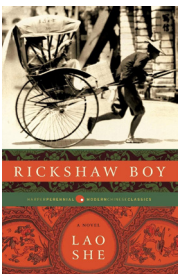


Relationships between authors and translators

The Neapolitan Quartet by Elena Ferrante, a coming-of-age story of two girls forging lives for themselves in a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of Naples, was translated from Italian to English by Ann Goldstein. With Ferrante's identity a secret, Goldstein was left largely to her own devices to capture the nuanced southern dialect of the four books, with their communication always mediated through a publisher. The two never met or spoke directly.



Conversely, the Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges worked alongside translator Norman Thomas di Giovanni in a close collaboration. After Borges became completely blind at 55, Di Giovanni moved to Buenos Aires to work side by side with Borges in translating his poetry and short stories into English. Borges adored Di Giovanni's translation of *The Book of Imaginary Beings*, a fake encyclopaedia of over a hundred mythical creatures, so much so that he insisted all future translations be based on the English rather than the Spanish edition.



Rewritten endings

Rickshaw Boy (Camel Xiangzi) is a Chinese novel published in 1937 by Lao She, which follows an industrious young man earning a living as a rickshaw puller in 1920s Beijing. The first English language translation by Evan King in 1945 was unauthorised. King rewrote She's tragic, politically-charged conclusion to the book to have a happier ending, in view, at least in part, of selling more copies. Howard Goldblatt's subsequent translation restored Lao She's original ending, emphasising the bleak reality of early 20th century Beijing and calling for fundamental social change.

With thanks to Give a Book and PRG volunteer Ruth

SEDULO
Forensic Accountants

Facing Confiscation under POCA proceedings?

Independent forensic accounting expertise for complex defence cases.

- Legal Aid accepted
- Free prison consultations
- Money laundering and tax investigations

	Prosecution Benefit	Sedulo Benefit
Mr G	£603,000	£90,000
Mr H	£1,683,000	£191,000
Mr A	£507,000	£158,000

Speak confidentially to our team now!

0113 5187947 info@seduloforensic.co.uk

Sedulo Leeds, St. Paul's House, 23 Park Square S, Leeds, LS1 2ND

Each case is determined on its own facts.

PRG GIVE A BOOK

Prison Reading Groups (PRG) was created in 1999 to set up, support and fund informal reading groups in prisons. We currently support more than 100 groups in over 65 prisons nationwide. If you're interested, check with your library to see if there's a group in your prison. PRG is part of registered charity Give a Book.