**C 19 BRITISH NOVEL / REMEDIATION EXERCISE**

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**Roman Jakobson’s model of communication.**

**Remediation exercise.**(1 paragraph / scene of translation, 500 word reflection essay)  This assignment presumes that every medium has specific capacities and affordances – that novels (for example) can do things other media forms cannot, and vice versa. For this exercise you are to take one scene in a novel and “translate” it into another media form, or vice versa.  After performing your translation you are to reflect on how and why you made the decisions you did – and what those decisions told you about the medium of novel form. Terms and tips to be provided.

**Some Definitions:**

**Medium**: (from media, middle or between): From *Wikipedia*: The word *medium* is defined as "one of the means or channels of general communication, information, or entertainment in society, as newspapers, radio or television."[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_%28communication%29#cite_note-dict_thed-1) The beginning of human communication through designed channels, i.e. not [vocalization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speech_production) or gestures, dates back to ancient [cave paintings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cave_paintings), drawn [maps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maps), and [writing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writing).” From NKH: In art “medium” is the material one uses to make art, we can think of it as the material means by which information is communicated from one location or speaker to another, an audience, reader, or listening.

**Remediation**: the translation of content from one medium to another, often so as to emphasize or show off the different capacities of both media forms – their *media specificity*. *NKH, adapted from Bolter and Grusin, Remediation.*

**Medium specificity:** According to [Clement Greenberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clement_Greenberg), who helped popularize the term, medium specificity holds that "the unique and proper area of competence" for a form of art corresponds with the ability of an artist to manipulate those features that are "unique to the nature" of a particular medium. … Medium specificity suggests that a work of art can be said to be successful if it fulfills the promise contained in the medium used to bring the artwork into existence. Much debate can remain as to what a given medium best lends itself to. *Wikipedia.*

Affordance:  the qualities or properties of an object that define its possible uses or make clear how it can or should be used *<We sit or stand on a chair because those affordances are fairly obvious. — Scott Lafee, San Diego Union-Tribune, 15 Aug. 1993>* *<An affordance is a resource or support that the environment offers an animal; the animal in turn must possess the capabilities to perceive it and to use it. — Eleanor J. Gibson et al., in The MIT Encyclopedia of the Cognitive Sciences, 1999> Merriam Webster Online Dictionary*

Steps:

1. Pick a *source text* from a *source medium*. If your source text is a novel, choose 1 paragraph or scene. If your source text is a film, a video game, a poem, a play, a text message exchange, a twitter thread, or anything else, choose something like the equivalent volume of information as your starting point.
2. Pick a *destination* medium: this is a different medium from the one you started with. It can be film, video, text message, Twitter, Facebook, poetry (in any form, rhymed or free, etc etc), drama, painting, sculpture, etc. etc etc. It must only be different from the one you started with.
3. **Note that either the source or the destination medium must be THE NOVEL.**
4. Now: translate! Your job is creatively but faithfully to recode the source text into a new, destination one, translating across media as you do so. What will result? What will be lost or gained in this translation? Who knows. You need to tell us, in a short, 500 word blog post. This can be in a personal voice and describe the process and difficulties (or ease) of doing this work, but must analytically focus on the different affordances of each medium – what it does well that others don’t, and vice versa—and reflect on the medium specificity of each pole in your two-poled communication process.

**Note your completed project will include two texts: source and destination, and a 500 word reflection. All of this should be posted to the blog with an indication that this is your Remediation Exercise.**

*Final tips: Be bold, be smart, have fun.*