Homework No. 6
(due at beginning of class Monday, May 17)

1. Go to: http://translate.google.com/translate_t

This site allows you to type in text and translate it into another language. You can also backtranslate, i.e., translate back into the original language, by copying and pasting. To answer the following questions, you will have to come up with your own examples to defend your answers.

(a) Do you think this site uses a transformer system or a transfer system? Why?
(b) How deep do you think the grammatical analysis is? (e.g., Is the system using morphological analysis? Proceeding word by word? Syntactic analysis? Semantic analysis?) Why?

(50 points)

2. Go to: http://www.tashian.com/multibabel/

For the first three parts of this question, ignore the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean options.

(a) Come up with an example sentence that you’re going to translate and back-translate and write it down. Be funny; be creative; pick a song lyric or movie quote; whatever. Just make sure that the sentence is sufficiently interesting, so that you are able to answer all of the following questions.

(b) Enter your sentence, and examine all the (English) backtranslations. Write down all the backtranslations and for each backtranslation, give me its score (1-4) on the intelligibility scale (p. 70 of the slides).

(c) In terms of quality, pick the best and worst backtranslations. Explain how you arrived at the best and worst – i.e. think about intelligibility, accuracy, error analysis. (For error analysis, think of criteria you can use for determining quality: meaning change, tense change [present, past, future], word choice, missing/added words, word order, etc.)

(50 points)

Bonus question:

(d) Now, turn on the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean option. Are these backtranslations generally better or worse than the others? Why do you think that is?

(20 points extra)