

THOUgHT spoRtS

LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs

de₁

v. to be, to exist. *A owru **de** baka a doro.* The machete **is** behind the door.

*Den sortu bigi meti dati fu fosi no **de** moro.*

Those big kinds of animals from the past do not **exist** anymore.

Sranan Tongo - English Dictionary

“Working across languages is a conundrum, especially for those of us who speak and write in the language of the empire. Our language perpetrates the invisibility of the other. Our language imposes the privilege of the same. Yet we translate into our language. We translate into our language to rewrite our language.”

A Manifesto for Ultratranslation, Antena

“I am black and white and pink and yellow.”

Lee ‘Scratch’ Perry

Oompa Loompa¹

soy aquí new tongue. can you welcome this
 gaze towards words unspoken by a cynical generation? dump
 some luster of rulers. your labor deserves plaudits. of
 pompeblêd never explained. just expected. yours
 a root I may retain just the slurs. general blah blah is null. so
 simply: we are bipedal but we be natural idiots. plainly, full
 of ourselves; driven to control the oceans, the winds, adjectives. your
 cheese is mean friend. like pungent crunch. but we knew this. skin
 fished & fry up. I thought it was the French to blame on mayo. a
 deaf waitress serves/teaches me 'espresso.' a cashier denies me stamps. coat
 the roofs w/ hert e ja e taal e meme. no volume raised though. so
 who hears if unable to read? does this hand need be this heavy?

elaborate for me this thing about Frisian women. evidence of heavy
 unfettered traits all leading to Famke Janssen. bad example? so...
ferhoalen. the Dutch 'g' estou não meu compadre. relatives not. coat
 of honing on Spain o Arawak o (insert African/Asian root here) well, then we duet. a
 transfer of particles across ponds where escaped, we collage. my skin
 code switch; longing tropics, it pales beside Waddenzee. your
 oak thrives in sand as I digress to YouTube tutorials to catch di riddim. full
 of joy. alas the shop for Clumpys is open from 12-5. the tallest in Europe eh? so
 what about the Danes? hung like Grutte Pier? get yours
 vertical ascents. damn your staircases. scalene, obtuse triangles of
 of hell. misdirected retribution for fiending Vlisco. dump
 more tea inna dey cup please. até mais moanna. my lessons forgot this.

Agehya – Zumbi

after Stanley Brouwn

o número total de minhas passos em
the total number of my steps in

The Bronx

watashi no suteppu no sōsū
the total number of my steps in

Harlem

el número total de mis pasos en
the total number of my steps in

Helmond

watashi no suteppu no sōsū
the total number of my steps in

Nishi Ogikubo

o número total de minhas passos em
the total number of my steps in

North Carolina

watashi no suteppu no sōsū
the total number of my steps in

Okinawa

el número total de mis pasos en
the total number of my steps in

São Salvador de Bahia

watashi no suteppu no sōsū
the total number of my steps in

Taxco

o número total de minhas passos em
the total number of my steps con

Tsalagi

watashi no suteppu no sōsū
the total number of my steps in

Waddenzee

el número total de mis trapus² en

Ilè Yorùbá

Dejima

para Titia y Petronella y M

let's play a game. first step? wife or wet nurse?
 heathered fragrance of breast milk or perfume?
 whose ginger curlicue crushed shōguns. whom
 is worth study? umeboshi kyōi. pursed
 cheeks, flushed freckled, unsought laws crashed verse
 nutmeg. cooper. flecked hint of Marathy.
 mamushi christened for baby daddy
 exchanged façades on a fan shaped island
 oddities. neither skilled courtesan almonds
 who receive clover, astrolabes, lacquer, cohi.
 drops of bonyū sweet rice spectacled aijin³
 did honor let the boy pick up Nihongo?
 a single vase might have stored cane azijin⁴
 cherries for the daughter. what for the Jawa-go?

*cada panel tem a sua tampa*⁵

ai na ai⁶

you muddy the Dutch as the brain fidgets between your first & likely fourth
 what you share are Somalian relations scattered. Toronto, Minnesota, the UK.
 near Sint Anthonystraat our hue makes we familiar. makes we want to communicate.
 separated by roots planted far from there & over there.
 our ancestors had blasphemed
 thus, we are here. *kanohi ki te kanohi*⁷

ai na ai

over kibbeling, migration did not require English or Frisian for you.
 my effort is useless. three words in Dutch will have to do.
 where about in China did you come from & are there any relatives in Flushing, Queens?
 like you, do they scale and slice up fish in Harlem?
 beside the canal, on a street lined with cheese shops,
 pointless are the four tones. I am far from Feijiacun's demolished markets.
 we are far from hukou⁸. we. migratory birds assimilated into *the paragraph of law*.⁹

ai na ai

even the Vietnamese bánh bao is Dutch.
 I hear no evidence of your parents.
 that private voice ornate & clandestine
 won't be eavesdropped upon between customer service & food prep.

ai na ai

buying a tourist magnet, I find ones for Egypt beside them.
 it would be a deal you mention. 5 euro instead of 25 as priced in Amsterdam
 still, the curiosity: miniature windmills beside pyramids. busts of pharaohs, nautical joys
 upon the Nile accommodating cows & flags. I ask you if there is a mosque
 as I have visited the former Jewish school for children;
 the protestant church where royals are entombed.
 my reasons are simple:
 where can I hear Arabic in Leeuwarden?

ai na ai

you break the Dutch w/ pauses. praise our marvelous squishy cerebral cortex
 we dream in one language until we encounter another. these machines,
 recall the first Thai word in order to answer mine in English
 we smile. then become universal. facial expressions for pain & relief.

pointing to areas on my back.
motioning 'gentle' towards the lumbar arc of spine.

ai na ai

in the center of the city, the capital of Friesland,
I am stared back at blankly for 'Tige tank.'
fair-trade chocolate does not speak Frisian.

superpotência

European Lowlands know how to control flood zones...

What is it that the USA doesn't comprehend for controlling our Lowlands?

@quanah825

the sea once divided the earth. since abandoning the sand,
where monks claimed & dredged *moeras*, no one asked for her return.
to this the sea whispered *eu só queria a noite*.¹⁰

insects & avocet fashion the coast
parcel out larva, microbes, oysters w/ the flocks
I gave low tides she surges against each dyke.

a papal declaration. *was I not enough to worship?*
the sum of a zealous 1493 inter caetera.
contained are faint hauntings inside the marsh. passed, the first reclamation

a frontiersmen's belief of doctrine
that gospels for potatoes, doubts the intelligence
of octopi w/ three hearts & nine brains

hands could harvest seekraal & let the sea be
a second dyke made of peat & clay. *moi. moi.* mildly tame,
a swallow prays for safe passage mid-air while draughts are tackled below.

the sea tires from the holy trinity, the fourth dyke, a sealed inlet,
the ninth dam, the eighth canal. one's survival exceeds
as another subside. preferring wheat & onions over currents

in time, the suffering is of little calamity. a curious brine pulled & pushed
upon necessity. polders asserted by rulers & why you stand here.
industry. *how resourceful humanity* the sea tells you. *prachtig. how ûnfolslein*

taaltaske

*between 1880 and 1900, resulting from a farm crisis,
20,000 Frisians emigrated to the US...*

ระยะทางจาก Marrakech, โมร็อกโก ถึง Leeuwarden คือ 9,089 km

masaafada u dhexeysa Marrakech, Morocco ilaa Leeuwarden waa 3,158.4 km
the distance from Marrakech, Morocco to Leeuwarden is 3,158.4 km

the distance from Cairo, Egypt to Leeuwarden is 5,266.8 km

khoảng cách từ thành phố Hồ Chí Minh đến Leeuwarden là 9.562 km
the distance from Ho Chi Minh City to Leeuwarden is 9,562 km

the distance from Bangkok Thailand to Leeuwarden is ...

İstanbul'dan uzaklığı, Türkiye Leeuwarden 2,694,9 km
the distance from Istanbul, Turkey to Leeuwarden is 2,694.9 km

the distance from Somalia to Leeuwarden is 9,905.7 km

расстояние от Украины до Леувардена - 2114,9 км
the distance from Ukraine to Leeuwarden is 2,114.9 km

distance becomes distance

homing pigeons & croquette

in the book shop, there lives a stand of postcards. on the stand
there lives flags w/ seven red unidentified objects & coat of arms.
there lives photos of canals & cows & big black horses & a lopsided church tower.

sân raze^{shout} zand maan moanne^{moon/mouth}
prúste^{sneeze} rêste^{rest}

in the bookshop there is a counter & behind the counter are
postage stamps for the postcards. the relationship of the two
intrinsically linked to the history of communication.

stills, moving images of women & men delivering correspondence,
pre-bike messenger, dingy white duffle bags w/ drawstrings,
containers corroded bloated w/ kernals of episode.

letters so dense Mata Hari deserved a hardcover.
evidence in the requests for couches to crash, money, legal advice
trippin'. entreats denied in letters. or bacon verse across waters
we are suffering. please come.

dûnsje^{dance} kuijerje^{stroll} fuorje^{feed} kjirmje^{groan} rêste^{rest}

the postcard. a brief reports a hello a complaint a love you a miss you
a you's a bitch I mean a *kutwijf*
a huffer a troela nah I'm joking lol smdh beijos...
cheaper than an envelope. smaller than a manila
a TMI public announcement
anyone on its passage could read it. the postcard wears a journey
the finger prints burdened w/ its Mecca

the postcard wears São Salvador de Bahia, the postcard wears Cuba,
wears Slovensko,
the postcard wears Beijing, the postcard wears Dominican Republic, wears Japan,

the postcard wears Berlin, wears Phoenix Arizona, wears Romania
wears Ojo Caliente
the postcard wears Okinawa, the postcard wears Venice

the postcard wears Abu Dhabi

in a bookstore, where postcards filled w/ letters & findings & drunk towers
& voyages awaiting newer expeditions readied w/ ink smudges,

la tienda no venderá los sellos.
language halts. dogmas a bitch. a *kutwijf*
erstwhile innovations drift into exploitation.
for the “gesture” of ease,
forfeit twice as much
or ditch endeavor all at once.
switch back to electronic. fuck it.
who writes anymore? hand script is *so* ballpoint.

old school. geriatric.

kluut^{seabird} skiep^{sheep} grêft^{canal}
wolle^{want to} wurde^{become} ûntginne^{reclaim} the prachtig^{beautiful}

into piles of mail, sifted, assorted, placed in carrier bags & plastic containers; ubiquitous air mail
onto planes arrive in one place handed off to another sorted resorted into a mailbox a PO box
onto a fridge affixed w/ magnet magic tape thumb tacked to corkboard paper clipped
into a shoe box made into a mobile for a child’s first year the cheapest gift you can give
an affirmation:

*you can fight this cancer I’m thinking about you goddess this place is a trip. I met this fine ass man
girl...*

new words lose retention. slang slips inside a construction site, stumbling on low
indentations that designate road from sidewalk
the kind of home felt inside the African One Stop shop for all things
lace front satin head wrap
dried shrimp fufu plátano maduro frito palm oil spice

guided tour narratives & motives *bala*¹¹ entonces a blur...
the queen was so well loved but they did what to her skull?

kiivje^{quarrel} with boadskip^{message} azemje^{breathe}
in plak^{place} hâlde^{hold} fleurich^{cheerful}

curious tragic consequences
as the last Taushiro is a lonesome inebriated man
bamboozled by missionaries subsidized by oil companies to translate the bible.
en México the old man’s sole interest is his harvest of cacao
though Ayapaneco tiene muchas palabras y poco tiempo.

a postage stamp held hostage. void of ink stains
 finger smudges, blood stains from some accidental shooting of oneself.
 of foot prints & lekkerbekje grease. the postcard assumes position of book marker.
 some pretty momento.
 no message. no further journey beyond purchase & journal.

the magic of babbling verbiage. how Oldehove *slants*.
 & along the canals there are homes that mimic so.
 a flash of Rembrandt's statue & Friesian wife. sheep on alert beside swarte hoanne.
 old windmills stilled by innovation. flickering, the story of one king
 falling off a boat. how the whole mess of royals have Friesian ancestry.
 how taking on French & Spanish names were trendy y la reina Máxima es Argentina.
 a sapling for each royal & what she said about Dutch identity,
 probably means blip cause Friesians ain't Dutch

or Flemish.
 these windmills extraterrestrial
 engineered for heptapod hopscotch,
 likely to confuse migratory birds
 from Africa & South America.
 here, they arrive
 needing little from letters;
 modified & sonic
 guttural & hefty.
 one day there will be no stamps
 & one day, there will no words.

ôfstân wurdt ôfstân

Hotline Bling¹²

o total número das minhas prèt stappen in

Dutch

het total number of minhas dyomp'ati¹³ stappen in
Español

o total número de mis trapus fanowdu¹⁴ in Frisian

skucha bai ku mi

het totaal number of my divorsiá steps ini fesi¹⁵ dentro

Goo goo gaa gaa

het totaal number of mi nèchi steps dentro

Ingles

o total número das minhas passos dorosei¹⁶ em Nihongo

bai ku mi skucha

het totaal number of myn pina¹⁷ stappen te

Português

o total número of mis krasi¹⁸ pasos binnen

Runa Simi

o total número de moi futu¹⁹ binnen

Te Reo Maori

skucha bai ku mi

het total number das minhas burachi stappen op **GWY**

the total number of my broko stupu²⁰ con

GWY

habri pa mi

ring ring...

¹ A double golden shovel, the poem is generated from the line “This dump of yours so full / your skin a coat so heavy” written by Tsead Bruinja

² Sranan Tongo, steps

³ Japanese, mistress

⁴ Japanese, vinegar

⁵ Brazilian Portuguese, every pot has its lid

⁶ Sranan Tongo, face to face

⁷ Te Reo Maori, face to face

⁸ A system of household registration used in China that limits where a person is allowed to live and what resources (education, healthcare, etc.) are offered to them.

⁹ From the poem *ouroboros* written by Dean Bowen

¹⁰ Portuguese, I only wanted the night

¹¹ Hebrew, to confuse or to jumble

¹² Includes words in Papiamentu

¹³ Nervous (Srn Tongo)

¹⁴ Necessary (Srn Tongo)

¹⁵ In front of... (Srn Tongo)

¹⁶ Out (Srn Tongo)

¹⁷ Needy (Srn Tongo)

¹⁸ Hot (Srn Tongo)

¹⁹ Beautiful steps (Srn Tongo)

²⁰ Broken steps (Srn Tongo)