

# Why Are There a Lot of Haiku Translations?

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## Motivation

We want to know the best way to describe emotional expression.

☆ We are going to focus on...

“古池や 蛙飛びこむ 水のおと” Matsuo Basho



## <Original interpretation>

an old stagnant pond→a frog jumps into it  
→a faint sound of water→ripples spread→return  
in silence

### ⇒English versions

- ① Old pond Frogs jumped in Sound of water. (Lafcadio Hearn)
- ② The ancient pond a frog leaps in The sound of the water. (Donald Keene)
- ③ An old silent pond... A frog jumps into the pond, Splash! Silence again. (Harry Behn)

## What is the nature of translation?

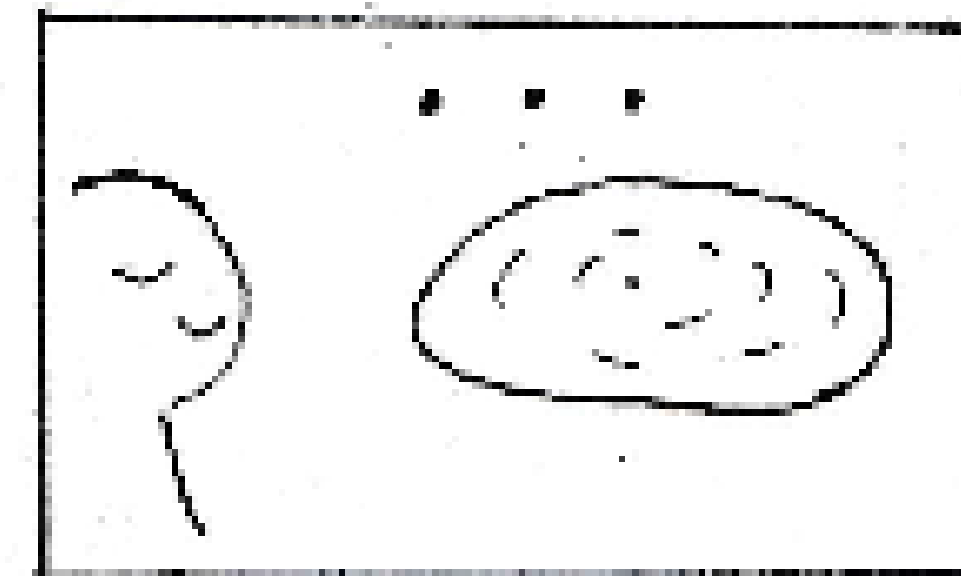
### Equivalence

To choose a word that has a close meaning to the original

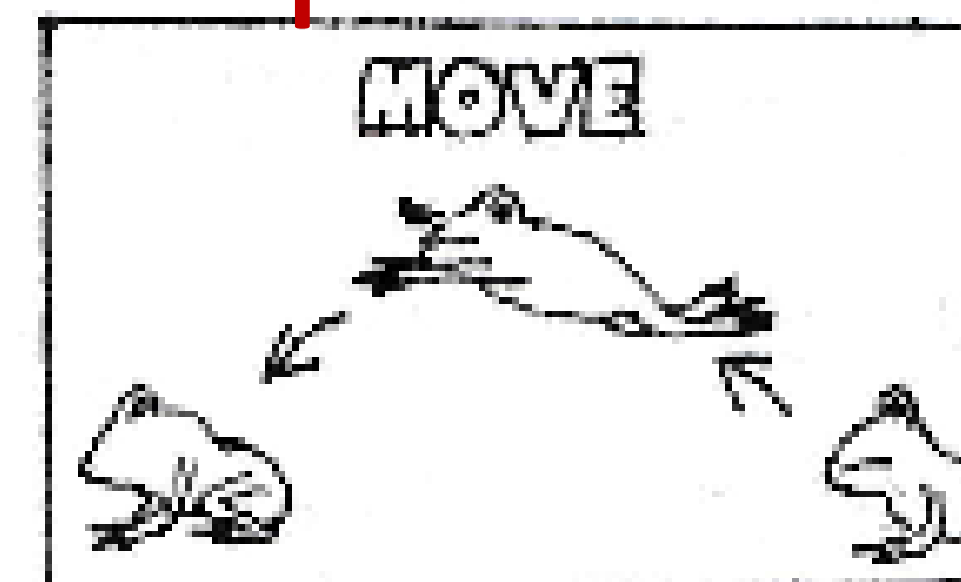
### Metaphor

To tell a reader what is not described in words

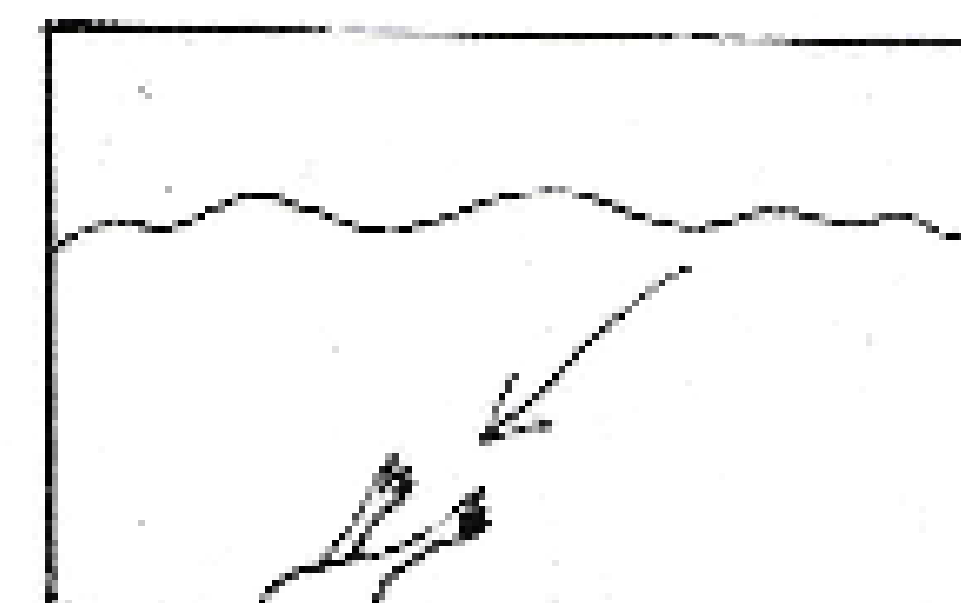
### past form



### leap



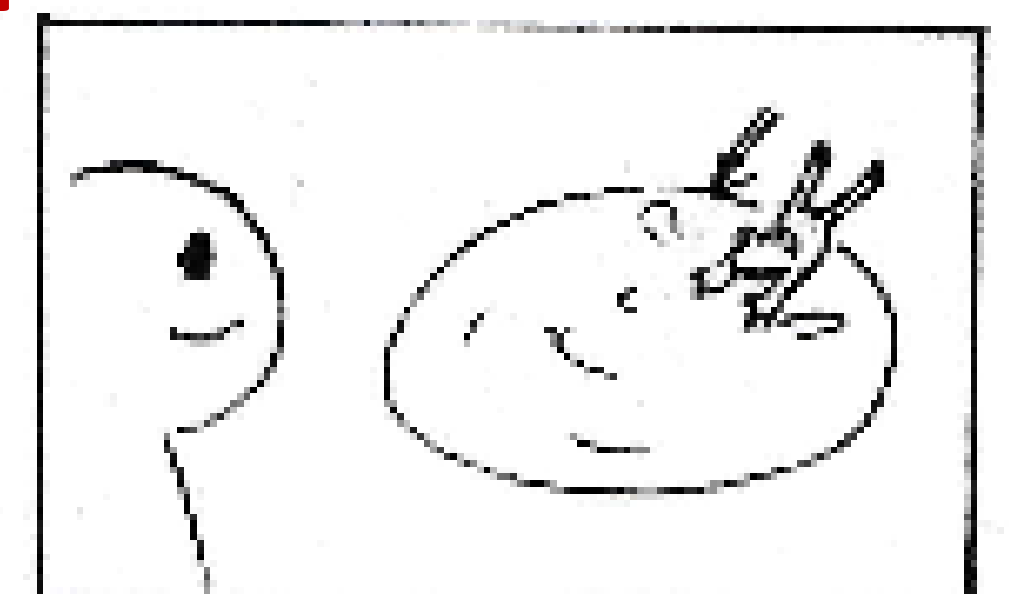
### into



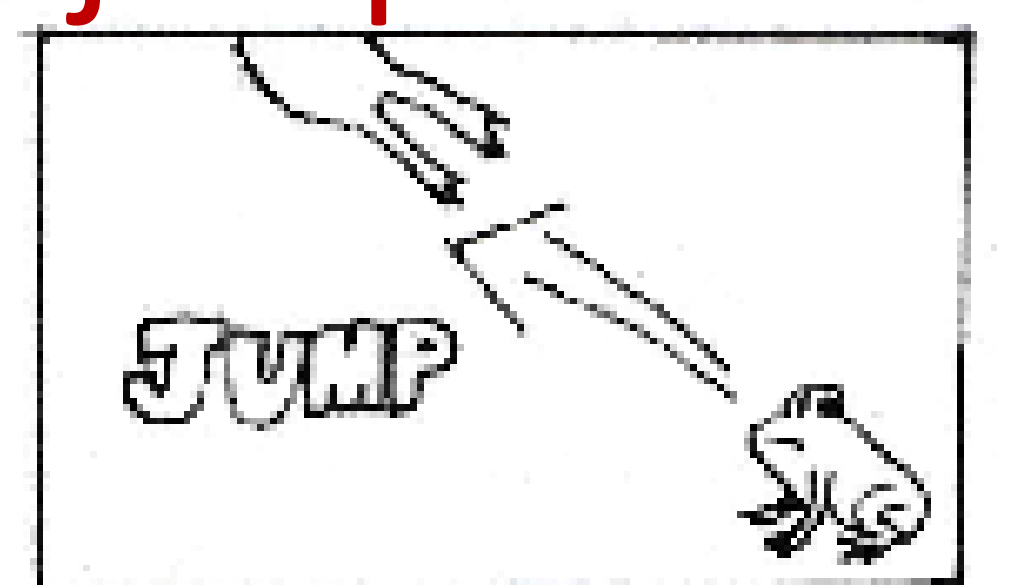
### a frog



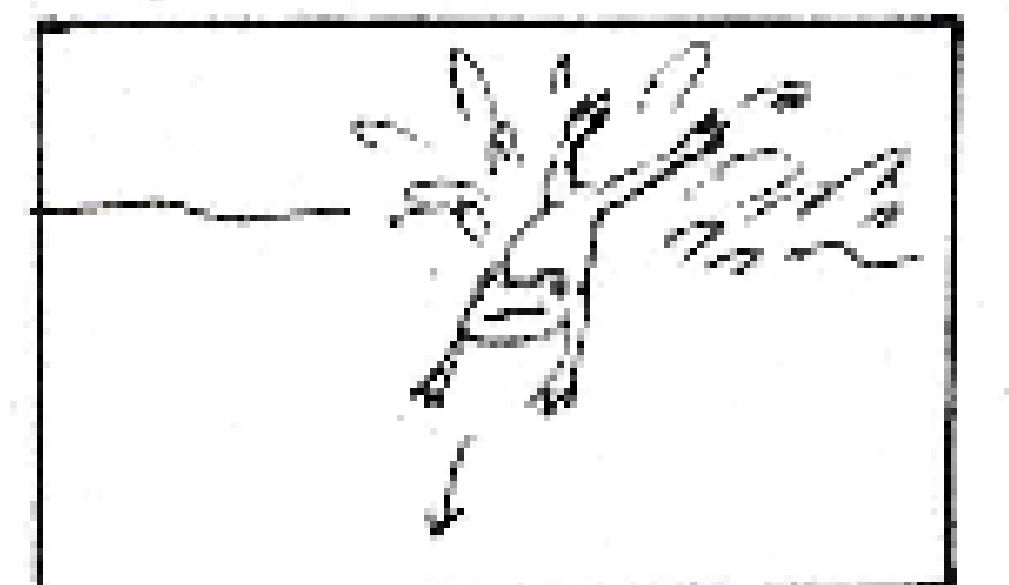
### present form



### jump



### in



### frogs



### Mediation...

Be faithful to the original expression and  
make use of the original rhythm

### Creation...

attach importance to telling meanings  
(sometimes using an unfaithful translation)

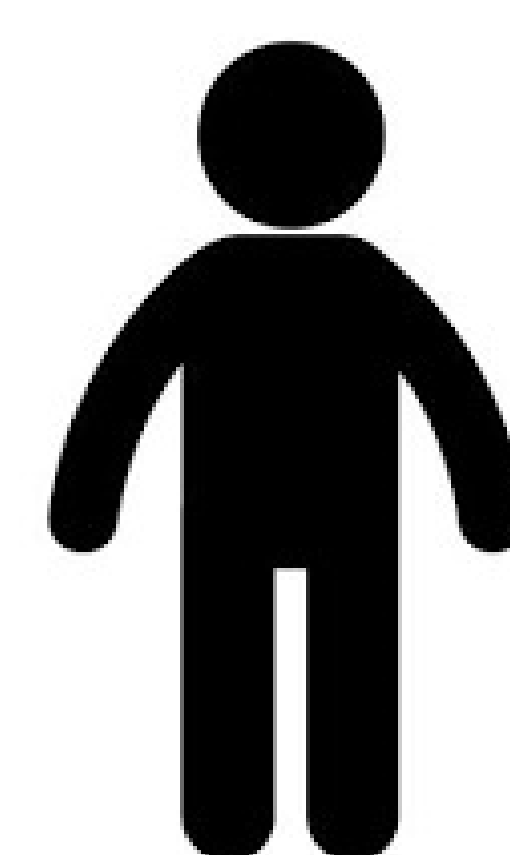
## Conclusion

### The role of translation is ...

sharing image and author's message beyond differences in culture



### Reader



## References

『翻訳通信』ネット版

翻訳とは何かー研究としての翻訳 <http://www.honyaku-tsushin.net/100/kenkyu.html>

翻訳講義 山岡洋一 <http://www.honyaku-tsushin.net/ron/bn/naze.html>