Language is inextricably connected to culture. Translating poetry is work of melding the culture of art with the living culture of both the source and target languages. In this project, I’ve translated Pablo Neruda’s love poems from his collection *Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada (Twenty love poems and a Song of Despair)*. I made the conscious decision to not translate the song of despair since my focus for this translation was to look at the language of love in translation.

I used the original text as my starting point, of course, but I looked at the translation of W.S. Merwin\(^1\) in order to compare and contrast the language. Through the process of translation, I’ve been able to extend my understanding of the language of love in Spanish and how it relates in cultural significance to the English target language.

The goal of this project has not just been to examine language in a cultural context, but also to access the merits of studying translated works as a way to further the study of either the source text language or the target language (or both) in the college classroom.

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