

DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION (III): POLITENESS

Translate the following sentences, paying special attention to aspects related to the expression of verbal politeness. Think about the type of relationship you think there is between the interlocutors in each case.

1. Pásame la sal.
2. ¿Sería tan amable de alcanzarme esa botella de agua?
3. Dame un cigarro, anda.
4. Muchísimas gracias. Me has salvado la vida.
5. Gracias. Eres un sol.
6. You have a book I need. Could I please borrow it to photocopy a few pages?
7. Is there any chance I can make a quick call on your phone?
8. Do you think you would have time to read through my paper and make some suggestions?
9. I can't reach that book. Could you grab it for me?
10. Would it be okay to use this phone? It'll only be a minute.
11. ¿Me dejas tus apuntes un segundo?
12. I was just wondering if you had any time to have a look at a paper I've been writing.
13. Could you possibly read the outline of my work and give me a few pointers?
14. Perdona, es que necesito ese libro, ¿te importa dejármelo un momentito?

15. Lo siento muchísimo. Ha sido sin querer.

16. Oye, gracias, te debo una.

17. Muchas gracias. Ha sido muy amable.

18. Cheers. You've really helped me out.

KEY

1. Pass me the salt / Could/Would you pass me the salt, please?
2. Would you mind handing me that bottle of water? / Could you reach me that bottle of water?
/ Would you be so kind as to...?
3. Gimme a ciggie/fag, will ya? // Come on, gimme a ciggie/fag.
4. Thanks a million/very much. You saved my life.
5. Cheers. You are so nice / You are a sweetie.
6. Tienes un libro que necesito. ¿Me lo podrías dejar para fotocopiar unas páginas?
7. ¿Podría hacer una llamada rápida desde su teléfono?
8. ¿Le importaría leer mi trabajo y darme alguna sugerencia?
9. No llego al libro. ¿Me lo puedes coger?
10. ¿Podría usar este teléfono? Será sólo un minuto.
11. Could I have a quick look at your notes? // Can I have/borrow your notes for a second? // Can
you lend you me your notes for a second?
12. Quería saber si tiene tiempo para echarle un vistazo a un ensayo que estoy escribiendo.
13. ¿Podría leer el esquema de mi trabajo y darme algunas indicaciones?
14. Excuse me, but I need that book. Can I have it for a second?
15. I'm awfully sorry. It has been by mistake/unintentionally // I didn't mean to // It wasn't my
intention/It wasn't on purpose.
16. Ey, thanks, I owe you one.
17. Thank you very much. You've been very kind // It's been very kind of you.
18. Gracias. Me has sacado de una buena.